

Clinton's recent meeting with gays:
Nobody slept in the Lincoln Bedroom –
or changed his mind on 'Don't Ask.'

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Agent of change
Former FBI guy Frank
Buttino on Cunanan.

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Fassbinder retrospective
to spend two weeks at
the Castro Theatre.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years

Pink Saturday future discussed tonight

by Cynthia Laird

Stage, lights, and mirror balls, or no stage, lights, and mirror balls? A "real" sound system, or no "real" sound system? Beer, or no beer? Pink Saturday in the Castro, or Pink Saturday somewhere else?

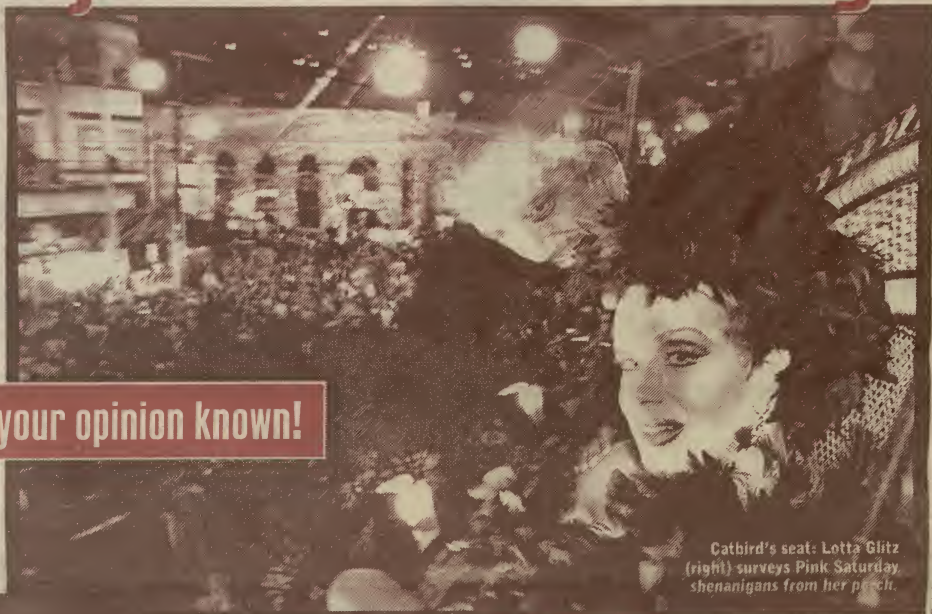
You can help determine those answers tonight, Thursday, July 24, at a community forum at the Harvey Milk Academy.

The forum is open to anyone who wants to discuss plans for next year's Pink Saturday, the popular Castro street party traditionally held the night before the pride parade. Local business owners, area residents, and the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee (SFLGBTGCC) are just a few of the groups expected to be on hand. Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC), SFLGBTGCC, and local neighborhood groups have all publicized the meeting.

At the heart of the debate is whether to keep Pink Saturday a spontaneous dance party without pre-planned entertainment and major marketing outside the neighborhood, or to bring in the stages and equipment, going all-out for a major event.

Make your opinion known!

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Catbird's seat: Lotta Glitz (right) surveys Pink Saturday shenanigans from her perch.

Erica Urman

More more Moore

On July 19, at San Diego's Spreckles Theatre, Genelle Moore of Lincoln, Neb., was named International Ms. Leather 1997 over 10 other women from around the U.S. to the cheers of adoring fans. The second successive black woman to win the title, she was sashed by her predecessor, the popular Jill Carter. Genelle's late brother, Ron Moore, won the International Mr. Leather title in 1984. For more on the contest and other leather happenings, see Mister Marcus on page 40.



Mister Marcus

SFAF to address concerns

Transcripts of client meetings show dissatisfaction

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) asked for "blunt feedback" from people who participated in a series of focus groups this spring and they got it; transcripts from the sessions that have been obtained by the Bay Area Reporter show that while there are many things people like or take advantage of at the SFAF, there are also some areas of significant concern regarding the \$16 million AIDS service organization. In response to the focus group findings, SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen has directed administrators to reopen a number of department plans based in the information from the focus group meetings.

The most frequently mentioned complaint seemed to be about a recently updated HIV Resource Guide that the foundation released last December. Focus group transcripts also noted concerns about the high salaries of SFAF administrators and the attitudes of some staff members.

"These focus groups stimulated an intense reevaluation of our annual planning process," SFAF spokesman Timothy Rodrigues told the B.A.R.

In June, SFAF board president Paul Wisotzky told the B.A.R. that "one of the beauties of SFAF is the

ability for it to change, and change quickly." Rodrigues said several things are being proposed to be implemented in the current fiscal year that began July 1.

Most immediately, a treatment specialist will be hired, and half of another staff's job will involve future focus groups. "We are devoting staff time to maintaining an ongoing commitment to these types of focus groups in order to assess dynamically changing needs," Rodrigues said.

Plans are also in the works to establish space in the office for a treatment resource center that would be staffed by volunteers. Clients could spend time there getting information and would have Internet access, Rodrigues explained. It is likely that the center will be in place before the end of this year.

The SFAF used unrestricted funds to commission David Binder Research to conduct 11 qualitative focus groups of SFAF clients. The 111 people who took part in the confidential sessions received compensation for attending the two-hour meetings held throughout April. The amount of Binder's contract was not revealed.

The foundation reported three main trends from the focus group data: stable housing is a key factor in maintaining overall health; clients are generally gaining access to new treatments and have a high level of

access to primary medical care – although women generally have less access; and clients want direct personal interaction around support for treatment information, not directives on what to take or not to take.

The foundation's first public statement about the focus groups appeared last week in the July issue of their *OutReach* newsletter; it failed to mention a single client complaint or concern, prompting the B.A.R.'s inquiries.

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

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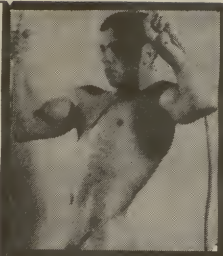
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suspect attempts suicide

by Dennis Conkin

A gay physician from the East Bay, who allegedly hired an undercover Concord police detective posing as a hit man to kill his former lover in 1996, this week tried to kill himself in his jail cell.

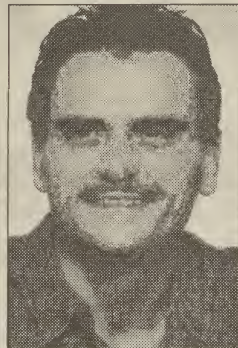
Dr. Gary A. Parkison, 39, was taken to Merithew Community Hospital Tuesday, July 22 from the Martinez Detention Center after being found unresponsive in his cell.

Parkison was scheduled to stand trial July 21 on charges that he tried to have ex-lover Jim Swan murdered to collect a \$400,000 insurance policy. The trial was

postponed after an inmate told authorities Parkison asked him to help hire a killer to murder Swan and police detective Scott Harn, the undercover officer he allegedly hired.

Parkison also allegedly tried to arrange Swan's death from jail last September by contacting friends and asking for their help in killing both Swan and massage therapist Vickie Ramsey, a former employee who tipped off police that he wanted to kill Swan.

Parkison is expected to recover and a new trial has been scheduled for October. The drugs Parkison used in his attempted overdose were not identified at B.A.R. press time. ▼



Dr. Gary Parkison

Buena Vista Park murder
not gay-related, cops say
No connection with other park slaying

by Dennis Conkin

Police homicide investigators say they do not expect to find a gay connection to a July 15 murder at Buena Vista Park, a popular—but dangerous—gay sex pick-up site for generations of San Francisco gay men.

Homicide investigator Nick Klimenko told the *Bay Area Reporter* he did not believe that the stabbing murder of 25-year-old Peter Luu was gay-related, but declined to discuss the possible motive for the crime.

Scott J. Phillips, 22, was arrested on the homicide charge and an outstanding traffic warrant at the scene of the crime. He remains without bail at the Hall of Justice.

Luu's body was discovered at 7:30 p.m. by two men who said that Phillips was naked and covered in blood shortly before their discovery, according to news re-

ports.

Police arrested the naked and bloodied Phillips after he told them the victim had intruded into his personal space.

Luu's throat was slashed and his head was bludgeoned by a rock, according to police.

Although Klimenko declined to discuss details of the homicide to avoid prejudicing the case against Phillips, he told the B.A.R. that Phillips had no established residence and may have been living in the park "off and on" before the homicide.

Police say the attack was not provoked by the victim, and a knife used in the slaying was recovered at the site.

The park has been a controversial gay sex cruising site for several decades. Complaints from neighborhood residents eventually led the city to defoliate much of the brush and bush in the area to discourage cruising.

Earlier this year, Jeffrey March, the Buena Vista Park Bandit, was sentenced to a term in state prison after his conviction in connection with the robberies of several gay men. March picked up men in the park, initiated sex with them, and then picked their pockets or robbed them, assaulting them when they resisted.

Police also say there was no connection between the Buena Vista Park murder and the July 20 slaying of Torrey Lloyd, a 27-year-old homeless man from South Carolina.

Lloyd was shot repeatedly in the head during a verbal altercation at a side entrance to Kezar Stadium at Stanyan and Waller Street. A medical examiner's report said that Torrey was found with his pants around his buttocks exposing his genitalia. Homicide inspector Napoleon Hendrix said that was because Torrey had been urinating. ▼

Authorities investigating
Market Street Gym death

by Dennis Conkin

The cause of death of a man who collapsed and died in a bathroom of the Market Street Gym in the Castro district on Wednesday, July 9 is pending, according to San Francisco administrative coroner Herb Hawley.

Andrew Holmes, 28, was pronounced dead at the scene around 11 a.m. after paramedics tried unsuccessfully to revive him. They

were called to the gym, at 2301 Market Street, after a desk clerk found Holmes supine and unresponsive in a locked bathroom.

According to a Medical Examiner investigator's report, gym patrons contacted management after noticing that the facility bathroom was occupied for an inordinate amount of time.

A manager began CPR and paramedics were called to the scene but Holmes, dressed in a T-shirt, gym shorts, shoes, and socks, was "beyond all life-saving

efforts and death was determined to be present." His baseball cap was found beside him on the restroom floor.

Holmes, who lived on 20th Street, had moved to San Francisco a year ago from Hampton, Massachusetts, according to former roommate Jim Hall. He worked for a fundraising firm.

Holmes had recently complained that he was short of breath upon exertion, and had mentioned to Hall that he had a heart condition.

According to the ME report, Holmes had been diagnosed with mitral valve prolapse as a teenager and suffered from asthma. Cause of death will be determined when toxicology tests are finished, according to Hawley.

Funeral services for Holmes were held in Massachusetts. ▼

Flash: As this issue of the B.A.R. went to press, the FBI announced it had Andrew Cunanan surrounded on a houseboat in Miami Beach, Florida. Further details were not available.

Gay private eye, gay former FBI agent differ on Cunanan case

by Dennis Conkin

A Los Angeles-based gay private detective has announced that by assembling and leading a crack team of criminal investigators and law enforcement officers he can bring gay multiple murder suspect Andrew Cunanan to justice — for a mere million dollar bounty.

"That's after he's delivered, not upon conviction," said Century City private investigator John Nazarian. The current reward for Cunanan's capture is in the mid five figures, sponsored by groups including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York Anti-Violence Project.

Nazarian told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he had little confidence in the FBI's ability to apprehend Cunanan — and said that the agency's anti-gay history hampers its ability to investigate in the lesbian and gay community.

"I don't think I'm unique in this position. Most of America is less than confident in the agency's ability today," he said. "To say that they [FBI agents] are homophobic is an understatement. If they are going to go into the gay community and try to talk to people and do research, I don't know too many people who are willing to cooperate."

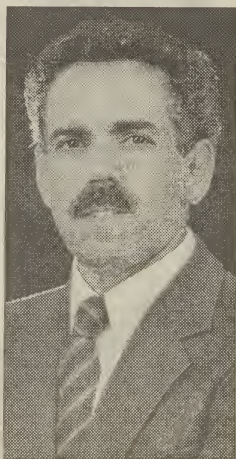
Saying FBI agents "have a tendency to bite you," he complained, "they look at us as bunch of mud-suckers from the bottom of the scummy pond."

Nazarian also said it was a sense of community responsibility, and not a quest for money, that prompts him to seek Cunanan. "We don't need more people in our community being murdered," he said. "We've already lost so many talented and successful people to the [AIDS] epidemic, this is the last thing we need."

"There is no doubt in my mind that I can find him."

Buttino: 'Times have changed'

San Francisco FBI field office spokesman George Grotz declined to comment directly on



Frank Buttino

Nazarian's offer.

"It's unfortunate that this case brings out the best and the worst in a lot of people," he said.

Grotz said the intensive search for Cunanan has involved FBI agents all over the United States — as well as the efforts and assistance of "many, many police agencies." He pointed out that the agency has had openly gay and lesbian agents for several years, and does not discriminate in hiring on the basis of sexual orientation.

Openly gay former FBI agent Frank Buttino, whose landmark class action discrimination lawsuit and settlement with the agency led to historic hiring changes within the agency, agreed with Grotz.

"Times have changed," he told the *B.A.R.* "The climate in the FBI for lesbian and gay people is far different than in the past. There are openly gay and lesbian agents and supervisory agents and, of course, support people."

Buttino, who is active in gay rights issues in San Diego and a frequent lecturer on college campuses around the country, said that the FBI investigation is "as good as the agents working the leads."

"I think they will do the best job they can," he said.

Buttino also said the FBI is approachable and that if gay leaders or activists are concerned about community safety, they should ask for a "sit down" with their local FBI office and discuss their concerns for their assistance — as San Diego leaders are doing in preparation for the city's Gay Pride festivities next week.

'Worst nightmare'

Nazarian said he believes that the allegedly HIV-positive Cunanan has nothing to lose, is "out for the proverbial pound of flesh," and is working on a very specific agenda.

"He's a law enforcement officer's worst nightmare. He has absolutely nothing to lose. A lot of gay men can relate to his anger. He's going after people he's had contact with, people who may have shunned him," Nazarian said.

"I'm telling you, I have a pretty good handle on this and it's not a good feeling. He's intelligent and he's conniving. I understand his chameleon-like character. I've talked to hundreds of gay men in and out of jail and I know what he's doing. It's not a comfortable feeling." ▼

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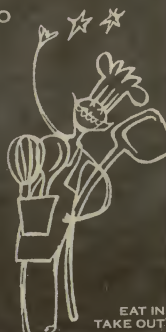
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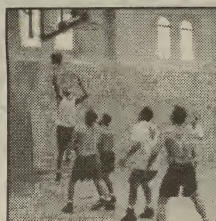
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Former New Leaffer files complaint with HRC

by Dennis Conkin

New Leaf/Services For Our Community substance abuse counselor who filed a gender discrimination complaint against the agency with the Human Rights Commission (HRC) says he's now become the victim of management retaliation.

Jerry Burt filed a complaint with the California State Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) Tuesday, July 22, charging that New Leaf's decision to stop paying his health benefits effective August 1 is retaliation.

Burt is currently receiving state disability insurance compensation because he is unable to work, and says he will receive another three months disability leave—on doctor's orders.

Burt says the decision of the agency to stop paying his health benefits is also discrimination, because the agency paid the health benefits of other New Leaf workers who were "disabled for periods of up to nine months."

Such benefits typically include general and specialized medical care by a provider, such as a physician or other practitioner who is paid by health insurers or HMOs, leaving only the payment of a small co-payment to the provider.

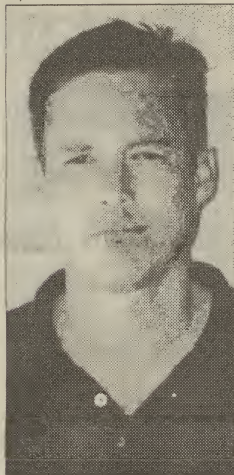
"It's actually kind of frightening, realizing that I'm not going to have any medical benefits after August 1. If anything, I would expect the agency will be liable for any problems I have," Burt said.

The norm, not mandatory

Burt says that while he worked at New Leaf he repeatedly asked for mandated weekly, individual supervision but didn't really get any—while the agency provided weekly, individual supervision to a female substance abuse counselor.

Burt told the *Bay Area Reporter* that regular weekly supervision to "discuss issues such as case load, client activity, treatment options, performance goals," and other topics related to his work as a counselor stopped in the fall of 1994.

The alleged lack of supervision



Jerry Burt

created such intense emotional stress for Burt that he was treated for depression and was prescribed antidepressant drugs but still received no individual supervision, the complaint alleges.

A spokesperson for New Leaf was not available to comment on Burt's complaint with the DFEH. However, New Leaf executive director Joe Neisen issued a statement in May denying Burt's earlier charges of gender discrimination by the agency.

"Please note that Mr. Burt mistakenly references the agency personnel manual suggesting that individual, weekly supervision is mandatory," Neisen told the HRC's Mary Gin Starkweather in the agency's formal June 9 written response. "In fact the personnel manual makes no reference to individual weekly supervision but instead states 'weekly supervision meetings are the norm.'"

Also, agency records indicate that between the beginning of October 1995 and the end of September 1996 Burt actually had 13 individual supervision sessions, and not five as he claimed.

Neisen also told the HRC that Burt's claim that a woman substance abuse clinician received preferential treatment was incor-

rect—that because she was new hire, she was given six months of individual weekly supervision as part of her orientation.

"Jerry Burt and the other clinical staff were also provided with group and individual supervision ... during this time. There is no basis of the claim that he was treated differently because of his gender," Neisen told Starkweather.

Colluding with craziness?

Burt disputed Neisen's version, and told the *Bay Area Reporter* that when he once informed the agency's substance abuse coordinator he needed "regular weekly supervision meetings," he was again turned down. "Her response was 'No. We can't do that and if we had to do that we would just hire people that did not need it.'"

Burt said that the alleged retaliation by New Leaf is disappointing, but that he's not planning to shut up and go away.

"The agency has a responsibility to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. I don't want to collude with their craziness. There's been a lot of collusion in the agency over the past three years with not telling the public about what's going on. This organization receives funds and management has a responsibility to the community," he said.

Burt also said he is still not ready to come back to work, and that New Leaf's response to his situation is disturbing.

"I still don't sleep at night or eat very well. It's difficult to find out that these people are getting paid a lot of money and are perpetrating this kind of abuse. How can they be so callous in their treatment of their staff? It's anxiety and anger-provoking," Burt said.

In formal discrimination complaints, the HRC attempts to mediate, but if mediation is rejected or fails, it conducts an investigation into the allegations and issues a finding.

A formal finding of discrimination by the HRC could lead to the imposition of fines against the agency, the revocation of city contracts or debarment from applying for future city contracts. ▼

It's LG and B and T at LGADDA now

by Cynthia Laird

Transgender and bisexual African-Americans were extended full voting privileges last Thursday, July 17 by members of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA). Co-chair Ron Hypolite told the *Bay Area Reporter* that members of the political club overwhelmingly approved the motion to include bisexuals and transgenders, and enthusiastically applauded after the historic vote was taken.

Hypolite said the vote was one of the most important decisions club members have made since he became co-chair last August.

"It signals the group's desire to work in solidarity with all parts of the African-American community, and to support the civil rights of all Americans in the face of continued conservative oppression," Hypolite said.

Another laudable change since Hypolite became co-chair is the formation of LGADDA's first scholarship fund, which members launched with a fundraising drive several months ago. About \$500 was raised at the kick-off benefit.

Hypolite said that a jazz pianist will be featured at the next benefit for the fund, a barbecue and social afternoon scheduled for this Sunday, July 27.

"The scholarships will go to

deserving college students," Hypolite said.

Details regarding scholarship applications and deadlines have not been finalized yet. LGADDA hopes to offer its first scholarship in August. ▼

The BBQ benefit takes place from 2 to 5 p.m. at 5405 Normandie Avenue in Oakland. The suggested donation is \$10 per person. For more information or directions, call (510) 534-4492. Contributions to the scholarship fund can also be sent to: LGADDA, 584 Castro Street, Suite 130, San Francisco, CA 94114.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New Leaf expands substance abuse program

Gay, bi men who use speed are targeted

by Cynthia Laird

Speed use and gay men. It's a growing problem that concerns many health professionals. It's bad enough that the drugs themselves are harmful, but when added to the increased risk for HIV transmission because men under the influence are less likely to practice safe sex, the problems become greatly magnified. In an effort to begin to get a handle on drug abuse in San Francisco, the city will begin phasing in an ambitious drug treatment on demand program so that those interested in getting help won't have to wait for weeks or months. Some agencies have already started serving more people, because the Board of Supervisors approved \$1.6 million during the end of the 1996-97 fiscal year to get treatment on demand started.

One of those agencies is New Leaf, which received \$286,385 of the 1996-97 funds. New Leaf's city contract was expanded and will address the stimulant epidemic in the gay and bisexual male community, said Joe Neisen, executive director.

New Leaf's substance abuse services are part of an integrated outpatient program that includes mental health treatment. The agency serves over 500 people annually, including lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, and those living with HIV, Neisen said. The additional city funds will allow an additional 200 people to receive services.

400% more likely

Recent studies show the need for a program aimed at gay men who have stimulant abuse problems. University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) reported that gay and bisexual men who use speed are up to four times more likely to become infected with HIV, as compared to non-users, due both to injection drug practices and the increased likelihood of high risk sexual practices when using stimulants.

While the treatment admissions for clients with a primary cocaine problem has decreased slightly in the last several years, San Francisco has reported a 53 percent increase in clients with a primary speed problem in the last two years, Neisen said.

Getting into drug treatment in San Francisco has often been a



New Leaf counselors: Fred Barrios, Chuck Loudon, Chuck McNeil, Rick Mixon, Emilio Orozco, Jorge Guzman and Derrick Whittaker.

problem because there aren't enough agencies providing services and the ones that do are virtually full. As a result, waiting lists have developed; often, by the time a person got to the top of the list, he had lost interest in the program, or has suffered other legal or personal problems resulting from drug abuse.

Last year the Department of Public Health and Board of Supervisors determined a comprehensive treatment on demand program was needed. Mayor Willie Brown has supported it from the beginning, and \$8 million was allocated for the program in the 1997-98 budget.

Seen within a week

Neisen said that New Leaf, which has just finished hiring additional staff for its expansion, is ready to serve the community. Street outreach workers will be utilized to target gay men at risk, with a special emphasis placed on outreach to African-American and Latino gay and bisexual men.

"The way our program is set up, we have a series of groups, and when people call, they will be referred to ongoing groups and assigned a counselor," he explained. "Stage one groups meet a couple evenings a week and if someone calls, they'll be seen within a week and probably sooner."

New Leaf utilizes components from various treatment models, including social, mental health, abstinence, 12-step, cognitive behavioral, and harm reduction. Services provided include individual counseling, group counseling, facilitation of 12-step and other peer support programs,

psychiatric evaluation, medication prescription, and case management.

The harm reduction model provides the opportunity to "meet the individual where he is at, working together to achieve mutually agreed upon goals to reduce the harm associated with their drug use," Neisen said.

Alcohol and drug education, relapse prevention, and HIV prevention strategies are integrated into all aspects of the program, he added.

The men's and women's program directors at New Leaf, Rick Mixon, Ph.D., and licensed clinical social worker Lisa Wuennenberg, have developed the additional services for stimulant abusers. Staffing for the expansion will draw from existing clinical staff, specifically Jorge Guzman and Chuck McNeil, and several newly hired staff, Neisen said.

All client groups will be supervised by New Leaf's clinical staff, Neisen emphasized. A clinical coordinator position is included in the additional funds.

New Leaf has a sliding scale; for those not on Medi-Cal, the scale starts at zero, said Neisen. Typically, clients pay \$1.00 per session. Remaining in the program and going from stage one to stage four takes about one year. ▼

For an intake, call Val Saunders at (415) 626-7000, ext. 112. For more information, about New Leaf's substance abuse services, call (415) 626-7000. Neisen can be reached at extension 131, Mixon at 147, and Wuennenberg, at 143.

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Radical Women to take up fired journalist's case tonight

by Dennis Conkin

Bay Area Radical Women will hold a meeting tonight (Thursday, July 24) to discuss issues related to the case of Sandy Nelson, the award-winning veteran journalist and former reporter for *The News Tribune* of Tacoma, Washington.

Nelson sued the newspaper in 1993 after it transferred her from the paper's education beat to a non-reporting job in retaliation

for her off-duty support of a gay rights initiative campaign.

Nelson's suit claimed that she had a right to participate in initiative campaigns and that her free speech activities were protected under Washington state law.

A February decision of the Washington State Supreme Court exempted newspapers from the law, saying that the First Amendment allows newspapers to discriminate based on journalists' political activities.

In May, two Washington State

Supreme Court justices published dissenting opinions.

Nelson has 90 days to decide whether she will appeal the ruling to the United States Supreme Court, and is trying to raise \$10,000 to publicize and build support for the case.

The BARW meeting to discuss the case will be held at the group's offices at New Valencia Hall, located at 1908 Mission Street, at 7:30 p.m.

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OPEN FORUM

Good guys and bad guys:
The gay community
as a microcosm

We can't help wishing that the most famous gay person in America right now were not a killer. But with Andrew Cunanan making a name for himself as the weirdest handgun owner since John Hinckley tried to get a date with Jodie Foster by shooting at Ronald Reagan, and with Cunanan being referred to as everything from a "homicidal homosexual" (by Tom Brokaw on *NBC Nightly News*) to "a high-class gay prostitute" (by Cunanan's own mother; as Jay Leno pointed out, moms always seem to brag when describing their kids' jobs), we and everyone else have been force-fed a diet of info about that one strange gay man.

It's enough to make us nostalgic about all that pre-*Ellen* hoopla.

We hope this isn't going to give too much fuel to the anti-gay forces in America, who love to use stuff like this to suggest everyone who is gay is also a latent killer. The fact is, as sociologists can tell you, gays are statistically more likely to be victims of violent crimes, but no more likely to be perpetrators.

So it's embarrassing to have this homicidal homosexual the subject of a nationwide manhunt (personhunt?), but it shouldn't be too much so, or even too surprising: after all, since we are ten percent of the population, it would stand to reason that there should be one gay or lesbian person on the FBI's Most Wanted List all the time. Of course we're joking, but it is worth making the point that — for the most part, anyway — we are conspicuous by our absence from that roster.

Fortunately, the push out of the closet over the last three decades has revealed our community's real depth and breadth. Those who have come out as gay and proud include criminals, yes, but also the cops who catch them. As Dennis Conkin reports in this issue, gay investigators are working hard to apprehend Cunanan before he strikes again. We hope the mainstream media (who have been calling the *B.A.R.* for a week, looking for salacious details on the fugitive) will conscientiously report on the gay heroes as they scramble after the most lurid stories they can find on gay villains.

One of the stories we keep hearing about Cunanan is that before he went on his alleged rampage, he (also allegedly) started

selling and using speed. Certainly his behavior is consistent with that of the speed users we know: paranoid, self-centered, spontaneously violent, irrational, etc. It should be a warning flag to every gay person — hell, every person — who thinks they have their own speed usage down to a "manageable" level.

So far there have been dozens of people who knew Cunanan who have said (mostly before the Versace killing) "I can't believe that he could do that." We've heard people in San Francisco say that about their friends on crystal, too: not in the context of claw hammer killings and point-blank shootings, but in more mundane areas like losing their businesses and homes and cars and even pets because they have become so mired in amphetaminutia. And, in most cases where the addiction has gotten to those stages, there is an unspoken feeling that extreme violence was the next possibility. Surely we aren't the only ones to have heard the tales of formerly ordinary people holding their dates hostage all night long because of paranoid delusions, or of fist fights breaking out among friends while they were tweaking. Surely by now everyone must know this drug is killing our community.

Whether Cunanan is HIV-positive or not

(and we're more than a little stunned at the unprofessionalism of the AIDS counselor who told the media of his reported meeting with Cunanan) we think it's likely that the so-called recreational drugs have more to do with his current situation than does his viral load.

Which is all a way of urging our readers who are still wrecking their minds and bodies with that hideous drug to do something about it once and for all. The city has begun its treatment on demand program to wean its citizens off speed, and we hope those who need it will acknowledge their need and sign up for treatment. Before anyone says they don't need it because they aren't that bad, we recommend they remember the words of Cunanan's friends who didn't think he was that bad, either.

And for the rest of the community, it's time for everyone to lose patience with the dealers who are selling the poison that's killing our friends. Please tell those you love to stop doing the drug, and tell those who are providing it that they have the choice between finding another line of work or going to jail. They may not use handguns or hammers, but they kill people just as dead as Andrew Cunanan and are (or should be) no more welcome in our community. ▼



Editorial

BRAINSTORMING DURING NETWORK TELEVISIONS
PROGRAM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SESSIONSReady, willing, able, but idle
— Will you hire me?

by a person living with HIV

To Whom It May Concern:
I am responding to your job listing for an "outreach coordinator" and enclose a résumé for your consideration.

As my résumé attests, I have a solid track record as a volunteer activist while pursuing my successful career as an editor/writer. Now, however, I seek the stability of a paid staff position in an organization to which I can devote my full-time attention and effort...

You see, I'm going to live! I'm 42 and I've got to get back in the flow.

The desired skills and experience outlined in your ad closely match my training. I have proven leadership experience, strategizing and organizing skills, and an activist's persistence. My early career began in public relations in...

But I'm scared. I sat out the last six years, carefully removing stress from my

life, resting, retiring on monthly disability payments from my government to stave off my HIV infection. Now in my middle age, in the Age of Protease Inhibitors, my blood work is as good as any body's. I'm guess I'm one of the lucky ones.

And I'm ready to go back to work.

I'm ready to get up early every morning, punch the clock, work hard all day and give a hundred per cent...I think.

I know, I know: the well-meaning volunteer jobs-counselor for HIV people told me not to mention my HIV status to potential employers. She looked at me like I was crazy when I suggested that it might help explain my résumé's lack of momentum for the past six years. She told a tableful of us frightened gay-guys-with-HIV eager to get off disability and rejoin the workforce to fudge the gaps in our résumés and just say we were "freelancing."

She's right. Who's going to knowingly hire someone with HIV?

Which is precisely the reason I'm telling you.

There are employment laws I could hide behind, but I don't want to hide. I want to come marching home from the plague years and have my new boss understand that I survived, that I take nineteen pills a day and that medical insurance is a big thing in my life.

Underneath it all, I'm sure I'm the same person I was before the epidemic, but maybe I've changed. Maybe my employment is a risk all around. I'm asking for the opportunity to prove

to both of us that I'm an asset, a risk worth taking. Thanks in advance for your understanding. I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,
Hopeful in San Francisco ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Beat all over again

Not to switch channels on you, but your reviewer Robert Julian ("Beat dudes," July 3) really missed the boat! I went to see *The Last Time I Committed Suicide* expecting a bad film. I was delighted to have been thoroughly engrossed by the camerawork, the music, the narrative, and the studied characters. This portrait of the political and sexual overtones of conformity and repression during the Eisenhower era, with its use of language and jazz, creates a quintessential "Beat" film. The contextualization of the proletarian Neal Cassady seeking love, freedom, a way out of the stale banality of his time comes off heroic as ever. The silhouette scene between Jane and Reeves smoldered with repressed desire. The photography of Bobby Bukowski is superb.

But like so many commentators at the B.A.R., Robert Julian wastes his time, and ours, looking for dirt where there is only light. Disbelieving that Reeves may have chosen this role over a Hollywood Schlockbuster for reasons of artistic merit and political engagement, he bores us with the usual innuendo and gossip-mongering so prevalent in the pages of the B.A.R. A superficial shallowness coupled with an abject slobbering over wealth pervades the commentary of Wayne Friday and Pithy Galore. A ludicrous kowtowing to the pharmaceutical industry is apparent in the ACT UP/GG writers cesspool. In between the numerous full-page ads for Crixivan and other fraudulent medications, the B.A.R. continues to promote empty-headed politics, quackery for medicine, and cultural bankruptcy. Join the military! Go to Iraq, bomb little kids back to the preindustrial age, and die of Persian Gulf Syndrome! Vote for Ellen! Get married and emulate heterosexist values. You can even go to church on Sundays! Take your meds and die! Behind the growing conformity of the Homosexual Rights Movement, one can detect the ring of the cash register and the genuflecting of the psychic masochist.

I can only say not much has changed since the "Beat" era of the '50s. Except the rents and the drugs are a whole lot more expensive, and the poetry has grown rather stale. Of course, I admit I would be a fool to expect a good review or some incisive commentary. I confess I only read the B.A.R. to catch myself in the funny papers.

Ronnie Burk
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Anything else you want to get off your chest Ronnie, now that you've started confessing?]

Rung up at Tower

[The following was sent to the Better Business Bureau:] My recent visit to Tower Records at 2280 Market St., near Castro, has promoted this letter. On May 27, 1997 I went into Tower Records to return videos I rented from the previous night.

This experience with Tower Records was one of the most unpleasant moments of my life. One of the cashier's behavior towards me was very condescending, humiliating, harassing, embarrassing, and I believe to be very racist. I was asked to repeat myself at least four times, while other customers stared at me. In addition I was also asked, "Are you speaking English?" Then he rolled his eyes away.

Sadly, about 10 minutes later, I unfortunately had to come back to the same cashier to pay for the returned videos, and I wanted to check out another video. Once again, I was asked to repeat myself at least three times. After repeating myself, the cashier just stood there and just rolled his eyes and shook his head. With no other verbal response he pulled out the videos from under the counter and set them on top of the counter. He then turned around and told another cashier, "Ring him up," and walked away while he shakes his head.

Later that night, speaking with the supervisor on duty at Tower Records on the phone, I expressed the horrific experience I had just endured from the cashier. Diana, the supervisor, instructed me to notify the morning supervisor and apologized for the way the cashier treated me.

I am writing this letter to make you aware of the discrimination I endured in this store and to make sure you are aware of the type of people they hire in this store. This humiliating experience was very unbearable and unforgettable. I would hope that you would seriously look into this matter so that we can prevent it from happening to others. This type of racism and harassment should not be tolerated and should be addressed seriously. It saddens me that a big chain store such as Tower Records allows their employees to treat people in this type of behavior.

Although it should not make a difference, I was born a U.S. citizen and have lived here all my life and speak perfect English.

I will be hoping for a timely response regarding this matter.

Roland Domingo
San Francisco

No discount rate for the best people

I am appalled and struck by the ignorance of the writers who are protesting the salaries at the SF AIDS Foundation and other non-profits. The only difference between, say, the Bank of America and the SF AIDS Foundation is that they both must make money to stay in business.

The way you make money and provide good service is by having great people working for you. They do not come cheaply. But then, PG&E and Pac Bell are not giving the non-profits a special rate either, nor is the landlord. Why should we expect the best people to work at a discount rate?

In the best of all possible worlds, all do-gooder services would be manned totally by volunteers, including the chairman of the board. Alas, while some volunteers exist at SFAF as well as places such as SF Opera, the salaries must be paid. Do you think we get freebie execs at SF Opera just because they love the music? They have to pay top dollar to get the top people (although this designation may be a bit shaky when applied to our two most recent directors). I don't notice the esteemed Mr. Gordon Getty volunteering to be the head of the class, or even the fabulous multimillionaire Placido Domingo.

You get what you pay for, as the San Diego AIDS Foundation has recently discovered, as it along with a number of other AIDS businesses are going belly-up precisely because they didn't run it as a business.

To those of you who expect something for nothing, don't be surprised when you get turned away at the Gates Of Heaven because you forgot your gold token for the turnstile! (Admittance to Heck, is, however, admittedly free.)

Gordon Salter
San Francisco

Bored of directors

AIDS agencies in other states probably use SFAF's salaries to justify theirs, truly a hellish vicious circle. Christen and her board should put their feet back on this planet and speak clearly and honestly about this concern. How much money does a single person (or a couple - is Christen married?) need to be comfortable in a city like SF, Portland, Seattle, etc.? \$30,000? \$40,000? \$50,000? \$60,000?

What is important here, offering a competitive salary or finding someone who wants to do a good job and isn't concerned about keeping up with the Joneses? Here's a suggestion: dump the highly paid hangers-on, get a new Board of Directors, and split their duties. Half the board could do what Christen, et. al. have been doing, the rest could do whatever it is a BoD is supposed to do (which is?). We've already got too many rubber-stamper critters in City Hall.

Thornton Kimes
San Francisco

Mind control must fail

The current controversy about monitoring the sexual acts of consenting adults in private clubs is horrifying. There isn't even a conflict between public health and civil liberties, because there is no evidence that the monitoring the San Francisco Department of Public Health has mandated for the last thirteen years has any effect in curbing HIV-transmission. There is not a tough decision between proven public health intervention and civil liberties, but only a discriminatory, moralistic attempt to further alienate gay male sexuality.

To the medical profession, you are trained to be scientists. Prove these draconian measures work! Show me research, show me results. You can do neither.

To the politicians, beware. All science fiction that describes mind control, from George Orwell on, talks of the establishment trying to curtail the powerful urges of sex. You cannot do it, at least not to human beings. You can teach us to be safe, but don't humiliate us and try and treat us like children. We will not stand for it!

What monitoring has accomplished is to decrease the playfulness of sex between men in clubs. People touch less before they look. They judge each other more, before they interact. More of the attitude of the streets is evident in the clubs. At one time, a proficient mouth would attract a long line of hard-ons. Now, people want to judge the beauty of the head and body it is attached to. The jungle of the streets has entered into the silent world of private spaces, as sex has been converted to sin, and monitors to priests that pass judgment.

San Francisco is the only city in the world that monitors, in the name of public health, private acts of people in private places. Shame on the health department for defending this continued outrage in the name of disease prevention. And shame on us if we do not challenge the corrupt science and indefensible logic on which this continued policy is sustained.

Shahid Naqvar
San Francisco

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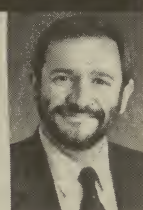
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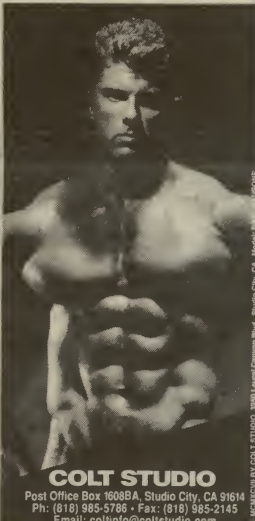
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Safer sex supplies

In the July 10 issue of the B.A.R., Cynthia Laird's article makes mention of the availability of condoms at the beverage centers during this year's parade. We were disappointed to note that Ms. Laird's article credits only the SF DPH for supplying condoms to the parade. It was, in fact, the Steamworks Bathhouse in Berkeley who stepped up to the plate and provided 100,000 condoms to the beverage centers during Pink Saturday and during both days of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Festival.

In addition, at our booth on Saturday and Sunday, we also distributed over 2,500 safer sex packets, which included lubricant, condoms and HIV/STD information. We also made available gloves, finger cots and dental dams. We believe that it is important to make safer sex supplies like these available to folks who play in the city or in our bathhouse.

Paul Cotten, Director
Steamworks Health Information Program
Berkeley, CA

[We should have known. Sorry for the slight, which was not intentional.]

Not impressed in L.A.

[The following was sent to columnist Mr. Marcus:] I am writing in response to your recent article in the B.A.R. where you extol the virtues of Kyle Brandon and his so-called "gathering of eagles." Now Mr. Brandon is calling himself "the greatest Mr. I.D." because his sugar daddy flew people across the country for his birthday party. Most people in L.A. and the rest of the country are totally offended by his creating a leather "A list," as well as put off by his arrogant, egocentric behavior. We refuse to be bought off like you, and would like for Mr. Brandon to do something with his title other than promoting his own porn videos.

I would like to respond to your comment that people are critical of Kyle just because they're jealous and were not invited or were not considered to be one of the "movers and shakers of the leather community." I'm sorry, that is not the case. Many of us in L.A. were invited, and our tickets are still sitting here, and we chose not to attend because we were so appalled by Kyle's behavior. Believe me, many people were not invited who have done much more than Kyle Brandon has ever done for our leather community. They are the silent, hard-working people who raise funds for Project Leather Outreach, and are not seeking merely self-promotion or have a huge ego to feed like our current Mr. I.D. We are not impressed.

Michael Santeroso
Los Angeles, CA

[There, there... Feeling better now that you've got that nasty bile vomited out?]

Pride wins over prejudice

San Jose's Gay Pride Day Celebration was marred by misquotes and prejudice against straights in general, and the president of the Pride Committee in particular by *OutNow!*, a gay tabloid in San Jose.

The naysayers said it could never be done. Many believed the negative articles written by Jessica Lloyd Rogers and, worse yet, the comic editorials carved out by Chris Thomas — "Man To Lead NOW," "Caucasian Named Head of NAACP," "Gay Pride Gets Straight Leader" (January 21-27). Hogwash! Skullduggery! And sour grapes!

The musical team of Rogers and Thomas did hoodwink a few San Joseans who frantically called Santa Cruz Pride to find out if they could participate in their event. After all, you couldn't blame them. *OutNow!* printed the word that the GPCCSJ, Inc. Pride's tax status is "disallowed by the State of California," "misuse of charitable assets," and "cannot legally conduct business." Hogwash! Skullduggery! And more sour grapes!

The 22nd Annual Gay Pride Parade and Festival was held on time. Seven thousand two hundred glasses of beer were served, 65 vendors filled booths, ten exotic food booths fed 10,000 hungry revelers, and many more vendors brought their own set-up.

Join the committee at the next board meeting on Sunday, August 3 at 12 noon at the Billy DeFrank Community Center. Find out the truth about the bungling lawsuit against GPCCSJ, Inc. We look forward to hearing what you have to say.

Our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who believed in gay pride and ignored *OutNow!* and who put on this year's event. They include: the Golden Gate Wrestlers, Marcus, Vina Las Vegas, Diamond John, Danny, Craig and his security people, Carl, Texx, Steve, Bill Funk, Dennis Andrews, Manx, Piper's Vision, Bryan, his mom, and many more — you know who you are.

Start thinking of becoming a member of the board of directors in the coming year. Many vacancies will be available for 1998.

Ted Sahl
President, GPCCSJ, Inc.
San Jose, CA

Explicit permission to discriminate

You have published a very serious error which I would like to correct. Specifically, in her letter concerning ENDA (July 10), Christine Beatty states that transsexuals qualify for protection under the Americans With Disabilities Act on the basis of "mental disability." She is sadly mistaken, and apparently has not read the A.D.A. very closely.

U.S. Code Title 42, Section 12211 (b) states: "Under this chapter [the A.D.A.], the term 'disability' shall not include ... transsexualism ... [or] gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments."

As you can see from the enclosed copies, we are placed right next to pedophiles and exhibitionists.

This example of our tax dollars at work was obviously not a mistake or an oversight. During the 1988 Congressional debates on the matter, Senator Jesse Helms directly stated that he wanted to explicitly give employers legal permission to discriminate against us on the basis of "moral judgment." This provision was deliberately written to deprive transsexuals of our civil rights as people who suffer from a recognized, legitimate illness. (And yes, some of us do consider it to be an illness. Ms. Beatty may think that being this way is fun, but I most certainly do not.)

For anyone who is interested, there is an excellent analysis of this issue in the 1994 *Columbia Law Review* (volume 94, page 1451.)

It's always important to read the fine print, isn't it?

Vicky Campbell
San Francisco

Hotel hell

It won't go away, the question of high salaries, staff pay-offs as reported. Has anyone asked SF AIDS Foundation why they place people with AIDS in hotels owned and operated by Ms. G. Kirschner and Ramish Patel? Has the staff at SF AIDS Foundation ever taken the time to check out the code violations given to these hotels: National Hotel, Leland Hotel, Chase Hotel, Donnelly Hotel? Pat, please spend a night at one of these. Your place in Oakland is much safer and clean, and furnished with high pay, not like the blood-stained sheets provided by these slumlords.

How much has Pat donated to help people at the Ambassador Hotel on Eddy Street? Take a walk and see, Pat, how people are treated at these hotels. Bet your last dollar you and your staff would run the other direction to a safer place.

"If the greed fits, You can't acquit."

Joe Jensen
San Jose

A healing quality

Re: "An emotional Sandra Hernandez resigns as Health Director." I am heartbroken that Ms. Hernandez will be leaving. She has been a vital, creative and committed force in public life.

My first meeting with her was at S.F. General's Rehabilitation Center's annual reception, hosted by the S.F. Mental Health Board. After my presentation, she was one of the few public figures present who took the time to acknowledge my contribution.

Her reputation is one of compassion for others, a healing quality to have in any working relationship.

We at the Board of Mental Health will miss her support and smile.

P.S. Thank you, Ms. Laird, for a lovely article. Nicely researched!

April Martin Chartrand
SF Board of Mental Health member

About the PR in LVC!

Your apparent dismissal of Joseph Martorell's comments about the depiction of the Puerto Rican on stage and more specifically in the film version of *Love! Valour! Compassion!* makes me wonder if you are not missing part of the point (*B.A.R.*, July 10). I am not PR but happen to agree with Martorell that the depiction of the Puerto Rican in *LVC!* appears rather stereotypical. This is the second movie I've seen recently in which the Latin lover character follows similar traits (unsophisticated, dumb, self-centered, "sexy" piece of meat with no depth or complexity); the previous movie being *Lie Down with Dogs*, which includes a similar character. (Was this the same actor that played the same role in *LVC!*?) My question is: Is this becoming a trend in queer theater from the East Coast? If so, don't you think it should be pointed out and not condoned or flippantly dismissed?

Equally stereotypical has become the portraying of the "gay" character in many recent films as young, handsome, witty and affluent. Granted, some of you are that, but we are certainly much more varied and complex, while still admirable and wonderful human beings. Gay writers do not have to resort to stereotypes in order to portray that complexity.

Didier Jaén, Ph.D.
Sacramento, CA

[All stereotyping is abhorrent. No question about it.]

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NOW, VOYAGER

POLITICS

Republican woes

by Wayne Friday

Historically, the party not in the White House almost always gains seats in both the House and the U.S. Senate in midterm elections, particularly during a president's second term. The national census of 1990 resulted in an increase in congressional districts that favor Republicans, largely reflecting a population migration to the Sun Belt. So what's to worry the Republican congressional leadership about next year's general election when the entire House and a third of the U.S. Senate is up for grabs? A slam dunk for the GOP, right?

Not necessarily. Indeed, it is the Republicans, not the Democrats, who now seem to be upset about their chances of holding Congress in 1998. Checkbook GOPers, who are expected to bankroll next year's election, are quietly saying that after finally seizing control of both houses of Congress only three years ago for the first time in decades, their guys are now in jeopardy of losing their majority next year because of muddy messages and internal warfare.

The GOP currently holds a 228-206 majority in the House of Representatives (there is one Independent member).

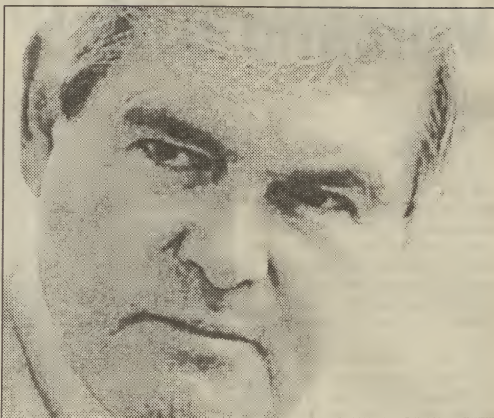
However, some Republicans worry aloud that after the failed mutiny attempt against Speaker **Newt Gingrich**, intra-party bloodletting will continue, seriously endangering future Republican prospects.

Despite being outnumbered by 22 votes in the House and 10 votes in the Senate, **Bill Clinton's** Democrats seem to be scoring political points aplenty with American voters by portraying the GOP tax cut plan as favoring the rich. They're also reminding voters that the GOP Congress shut down the government in the winter of 1995-1996, stumbled badly when it came to providing disaster aid to Midwestern flood victims, and fought to reshape Medicare to the detriment of seniors and others.

After the Gingrich debacle last week, which featured intrigues worthy of *Macbeth*, one prominent Republican, Governor **Tommy Thompson** of Wisconsin, angrily told reporters that "we're losing the propaganda battle badly. Our congressional guys act like they can't organize a two-car funeral procession." Even Representative **Chris Cox** (R-California), the powerful chairman of the GOP House Policy Committee, commented this week that "I think all of this [turmoil] has a surreal quality to it."

Meanwhile, although the Gingrich coup by a growing band of ultra-conservatives failed, many predicted it will not be the last such attempt, since Gingrich's negative ratings with the public are sky-high. His own colleagues, even the loyal ones, now have visions of Democratic congressional campaign ads in '98 linking GOP incumbents to the Newtster, perhaps the most unpopular speaker ever.

And as if all that weren't enough, a *CBS News Poll* this week showed the Republican-led Congress with a lowly 34 percent job approval rating — compared with President Clinton's 58 per-



"Et tu, Armeey?" Newt faced down a mutiny.

cent. Indeed, Democrats in Washington are sitting back and pretending to feel pity for Speaker Gingrich's continuing leadership problems (while actually planning to regain control of Congress next year despite the historical odds).

Texas' Representative **Martin Frost**, the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, watched the confusion within GOP ranks this week with something amounting to glee. "I don't know if this is just a bad

Russian novel or what it is," Frost stated, "but frankly, it merely points up their disarray and the difficulty they have in governing. They finally get the power, and now they fight over how to use it."

Even Republican congressmen were telling the Sunday television talk shows that "we're blowing it — just making it easier for them next year." Republican political consultant **Bill Kristol**, former chief of staff to Vice President **Dan Quayle** and now an ABC political analyst, summed it up by noting that "none of these Republican leaders trust any of the others." He predicted that the GOP will likely pay big for their continued infighting come election time. As one New York Republican member of the House bemoaned, "We Republicans are doing our best to cheat history next year." Let's wish them good-sleep.

Politics and pussycats

Cat lovers unite! Three cheers for Supervisor **Sue Bierman** for coming out last week against a section of the city's eco-friendly plan that calls for mass execution of the city's feral cats and pits cat lovers against bird fanciers. Bird lovers have been pushing for the killing of feral cats because of their alleged danger to birds. This senseless proposal is part of the Department of Environment's controversial environmental sustainability plan, which seeks to eliminate all cats, wild or domestic, found wandering the streets within five years. Cats are the least of the birds' problems. The true threat to them comes from pesticides, development, and the homeless, whose park encampments often disturb the poor creatures. Cats versus birds? Count me on the side of our feline friends. Now, if we could just do something about those filthy "rats with wings" pigeons, Supervisor.

I have to side with those critics

within the gay/lesbian community who are complaining that the Feds weren't really trying too hard to grab alleged serial killer **Andrew Cunanan** until after he reportedly gunned down fashion maven **Gianni Versace**. Cunanan spent two months at the Normandy Plaza Hotel. He may be clever, but I can't help think that his first four relatively obscure victims just weren't that important to the FBI, even if they did put Cunanan on their Ten Most Wanted list.

Considering all the people who now claim to have known this guy, he must have been the most popular man in the state of California. I know he got around, but come on! How about that owner of a certain local nightspot who told radio reporters over the past weekend that he was privy to a meeting in his club between Versace and Cunanan, where a disbelieving Cunanan, upon supposedly being introduced to Versace, quipped, "If you're Gianni Versace, I'm **Coco Chanel**." I guess there is no such thing as bad publicity these days.

George magazine reports that Attorney General **Janet Reno's** "closest friend in the Clinton Cabinet" is Health and Human Services Secretary **Donna Shalala**. Why am I not surprised at this revelation? Incidentally, I once met Ms. Shalala at a dinner party for respected philanthropist **Jim Hormel**, and besides having a bad hair night, she had the personality of a dishrag.

Multimillionaire San Diego businessman **Darrell Issa**, a Republican right-winger, started blasting U.S. Senator **Barbara Boxer** last week with one-minute ads in the hopes of buying himself some name recognition for a possible run against her. Despite Issa's deep-pockets spending, state Treasurer **Matt Fong** is the candidate to beat in the GOP primary to see who'll eventually take on Boxer.

President Bill Clinton will be at Lake Tahoe Saturday, July 26, to sign the badly needed Group Forest Restoration Act. He'll be accompanied by Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, the legislation's author.

In Cambridge, Massachusetts, it was announced last week that gay and lesbian couples can now get "married" in Harvard University's Memorial Church. Students, alumni, and employees of the same gender can commit to one another in the nondenominational facility, said the openly gay Reverend **Peter Gumes**, author of *The Good Book: Reading the Bible With Mind and Heart*. ▼

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HISTORY LESSON

18 years ago this week:

A bruising for Cruising

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Gay and lesbian protesters disrupt the New York City filming of *Cruising* July 25, 1979.

One of the most provocative and controversial gay-themed films in history, 1980's *Cruising*, starred Al Pacino as a rookie New York City cop who goes undercover to investigate a series of killings in the gay leather underworld. During filming in the summer of 1979, hundreds of gays and lesbians who heard that the script was violently homophobic attempted to disrupt filming.

The film's content was first publicized to gays and lesbians by openly gay *Village Voice* columnist Arthur Bell, who complained that the script he had read showed Pacino increasingly enticed by the sadomasochistic gay life until he becomes both gay and murderous himself (the final version of the film was ambiguous on this point). Bell singled out the film's director, William Friedkin, as particularly homophobic (Friedkin had directed *The Boys in the Band* a decade earlier) and urged gays and lesbians to interrupt the on-location filming in Greenwich Village and protest the film's distributors. Bell later told a reporter that he sparked the protests because

"this movie is a message to go out and kill, mutilate, and decapitate gays."

The furious protests against the film — which drew upon members of activist groups like the Gay Activists Alliance as well as the more moderate National Gay Task Force and gays unaffiliated with any group — have to be seen in the context of the time in which they took place. The summer of 1979 was less than two years after Anita Bryant first sparked repeal of gay rights laws across the country, and only half a year after Harvey Milk's murder. Gays and lesbians were particularly sensitive to attacks on their rights and their persons, and *Cruising* was seen as kicking them while they were down.

A few days before filming was scheduled to begin, several hundred gays, lesbians, and supporters gathered in a Greenwich Village Church to plan the *Cruising* protests. During the last week of July and the first week of August, activists protested filming both by day and by night. Loud whistles were blown at key moments, forcing expensive re-takes, and activists handed out flyers calling the film "a genocidal act." One protester charged, "This movie glorifies fag-killing. It's going to encourage violence against gays."

Particularly galling to the protesters were the dozens of gay men who served as extras in the bar scenes of the film, receiving \$60 a day (more if they were willing to simulate sex acts). Protesters shouted "Judas!" at such extras (who were required to bring their own leather outfits from home), and more than a dozen chose to quit, while others leaked the locations of future shootings to the activists, facilitating future protests.

The *Cruising* protests were effective in other ways — every gay bar in the Village but one closed their doors to the filmmakers, and Friedkin added a brief disclaimer at the start of the film indicating that the characters

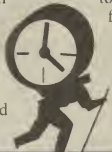
in the film were not meant to be representative of the gay community as a whole. But the protesters were unable to halt the filming or distribution of *Cruising* — so they started another round of protests when the film was released in February 1980. Several hundred gay and lesbian activists picketed movie theaters in New York City and San Francisco, and there were smaller protests in other cities.

In the wake of the San Francisco protests, Mayor Dianne Feinstein threatened to send a bill totaling more than \$100,000 to

page 22 ►



Dancing queen: Al Pacino loosens up in a NYC gay bar.



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Versace murder, hunt for Cunanan bring out best, worst in media

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

The recent brutal murder of fashion designer Gianni Versace and the hunt for prime suspect Andrew Cunanan has brought both the best and worst out of the media in the past week. While many outlets have explored the impact that these events have had on a frightened and angered lesbian and gay community, some reports have served to fuel the fear and ignorance of the general public toward lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people.

Please contact the following media and tell them that our community not only deserves respect, but demands it.

Blaming the victim

Less than 48 hours after the senseless death of Versace, both Cindy Adams and *Hard Copy* set their sights on demonizing the victim, a highly respected and regarded man. In the July 16 *New York Post*, gossip guru Cindy Adams told readers that "come nightfall, the workaholic [Versace] played ... often in what the uptight might term dens of iniquity. Props in those places included leather harnesses and young studs. Joints where 'a second date' was only a phrase, not a reality." That day the tabloid television show *Hard Copy* showed topless men dancing together at Miami events, and promised to explore "more about Versace's private playland ... a world some say may have led to his untimely death." According to them, Versace threw parties that "included scantily clad men as servants ... the kinds of parties that Cunanan reportedly trolled for fresh victims."

How do these items help the general public understand the motives of a man like Cunanan? They don't. They only serve to blame the victim and sensationalize a crime that has horrified everyone, especially the lesbian and gay community. These stories play on the fear and ignorance that many have about who gay people are.

Please contact Cindy Adams

and *Hard Copy* and let them know that demonizing based on his sexual orientation is downright offensive to Versace's memory and the community at large.

Contact: Cindy Adams and Marc Kalech, Managing Editor, *New York Post*, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-8790, fax: 212.930.8540, e-mail: newyorkpost@delphia.com; Harley Tat, Supervising Producer, *Hard Copy*, Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Ave. MAE W. Bldg. #120, Los Angeles, CA 90038-3197, fax: 213.956.1940.

Speculation fuels New York Post frenzy ...

The *New York Post's* coverage of Versace's murder and the hunt for Cunanan reached new peaks of sensational sleaze; doubly unfortunate since in the July 3 GLAAD alert, GLAAD praised the *Post* for its coverage of a same-sex wedding between two female New York City police officers. Among the alarming (and alarmist) points:

- The continued use of the phrases "gay killer," "gay serial killer" and "bloodthirsty gay serial killer," among other variations, link Cunanan's sexual orientation to his suspected murders, and serves to place "guilt by association" on the lesbian and gay community. Contrast this with coverage by Cynthia McFadden on ABC's *PrimeTime Live*, which discussed Cunanan's sexual orientation only when it was relevant, resulting in a balanced story that took the high road in discussing Cunanan's alleged activities.

- The linking of Cunanan's supposed HIV status and the murders—the *New York Post* headline on July 17 read "AIDS Fuels His Frenzy." Inside, a story based on pure speculation conjectured that Cunanan may have killed because he "fear[ed] he had AIDS" and that he was targeting people he thinks may have infected him. There is no evidence of Andrew Cunanan's HIV-positive status; the willingness of the *New York Post* to swallow such theories without evidence alludes to an ignorance that needs to be dispelled. People all over this country find out that they are HIV-positive every day — and they don't turn into "spree killers." As with sexual orientation, it connects HIV with murderous intent, feeding into the old stereotype of gay people as

both "sick" and "mentally unstable."

- The wholly unnecessary use of a "beefcake" photo to illustrate a column by Steve Dunleavy, in which he interviews Louis Kelleman, a Versace model. Obviously, using a photo of a model to illustrate a story is fair, but with the continuing portrayal of Cunanan as a "gay killer" in the *Post's* pages, along with Kelleman's pose (wearing underwear and soccer cleats), it adds up to at the very least bad taste.

GLAAD was founded in response to the *New York Post's* irresponsible and alarmist AIDS coverage in 1986. Sadly, in 1997, it seems that they've resorted to the same scare tactics with the death of Gianni Versace, in an effort to sell newspapers. Tell the *Post* that their tabloid-style hyperbole needs to be replaced with responsible coverage of a complex story.

Contact: Marc Kalech, Managing Editor, *New York Post*, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-8790, fax: 212.930.8540, e-mail: newyorkpost@delphia.com.

Who is Antonio D'Amico?

While the majority of media outlets ignored him, both the *New York Times* and the *Miami Herald* mentioned that Gianni Versace had a life partner (or companion). Both papers made mention of Antonio in their Wednesday, July 16 coverage of Versace's murder. "As witnesses arrived [at the crime scene]," the *Herald* reported, "Antonio D'Amico, Versace's longtime companion, was frantically running back and forth between the house and the sidewalk. ... D'Amico got into a car with police to look for the killer." The *Times* identified D'Amico as Versace's companion for 11 years as well as a designer for Versace Sport, a line of the fashion empire.

Often, when a gay man or lesbian is written about, especially when they pass away, the fact that they had a partner is completely ignored. This type of invisibility only lends itself to a lack of understanding that the community does have many long-term, committed relationships in it. By ignoring these unions, the media is ignoring the facts and does a disservice to the true memory of the deceased and their grieving companion.

Please thank the *New York Times* and the *Miami Herald* for getting the story right. Also, please encourage your local media outlets to include the life partners of gay men and lesbians when reporting on them.

Contact: Eugene L. Roberts, Jr., Managing Editor, *New York Times*, 229 W. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036-3959, fax: 212.556.3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com; Sandra Keyes, Managing Editor, *Miami Herald*, One Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132-1693, fax: 305.376.5287. ▼

Please alert GLAAD to further good and bad coverage of the Cunanan case in your area by calling 1-800-GAY-MEDIA or by e-mailing glad@glaad.org.

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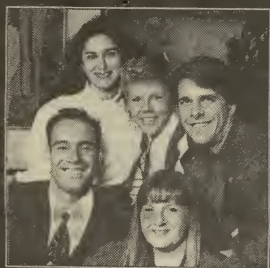
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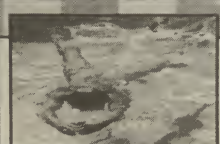
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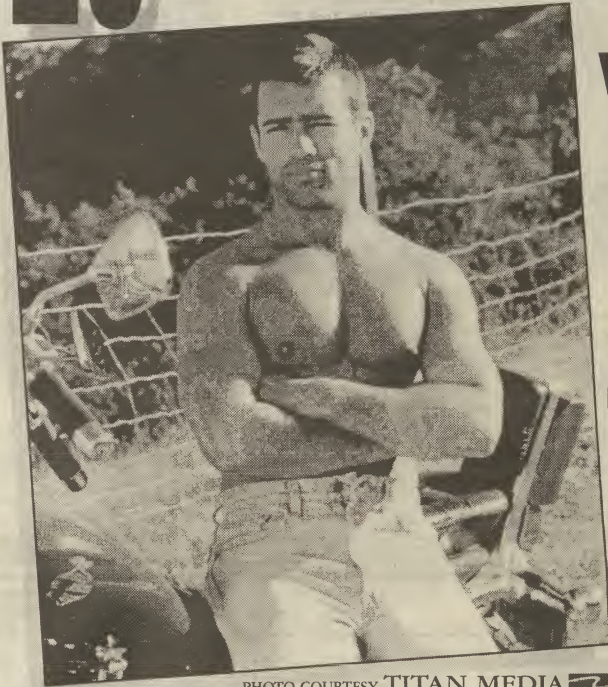


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Over 25,000 walk for AIDS

Largest event ever raises \$3.5 million

by Cynthia Laird

It was the largest AIDS Walk ever in San Francisco; more than 25,000 participants raised an estimated \$3.5 million last Sunday, July 20 at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's 11th annual event. About \$1 million will be distributed among 36 AIDS service organizations in five Bay Area counties.

Despite a persistent fog, Golden Gate Park was packed with people taking part in the 10K event. Many walked as part of corporate or agency teams and wore bright T-shirts emblazoned with company logos. Television celebrities Don Johnson of CBS's *Nash*

Bridges, Peri Gilpin of NBC's *Frasier*, and Malcolm Gets of NBC's *Caroline in the City* pumped up the crowd during the opening ceremony. T.C. Carson of Fox's *Living Single* closed by singing "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Mayor Willie Brown, looking casual in jeans, addressed the crowd; several supervisors, other politicians, and corporate sponsors were also on hand.

It's better in the Bay Area

AIDS Walk events in other cities have seen a drop in participation and funds raised. Initially SFAF officials were concerned the same thing would happen in San Francisco, and, in fact, registration was down last month. That

changed in the weeks leading up to the walk and was great news for organizers.

"I think the Bay Area has always shown a fundamental grassroots effort to fighting AIDS," SFAF spokesman Timothy Rodrigues told the *B.A.R.* "They know that in spite of the good news, it's not over yet."

Rodrigues said that by comparison, 23,000 participants raised \$3.4 million at last year's event.

Of the estimated \$3.5 million raised, \$875,000 (25 percent) goes to administrative overhead, Rodrigues said. That leaves net proceeds at \$2,625,000. Of that, \$1 million will go to the 36 organizations through the community grant program. The remainder, about \$1.6 million, will go to the SFAF. Despite the increased number of participants and an additional \$100,000 raised over last year, the community grants won't increase.

At the same time, Rodrigues said that had revenue been less than anticipated, the foundation was willing to take less money so that community grants would not be decreased. "We were willing to hold the line," he explained, adding it's now a moot point.

The community organizations applied for the grants earlier this year and were awarded specific dollar amounts through a review process conducted by the non-profit Tides Foundation. The SFAF had final approval over the groups selected. Neither the Tides Foundation nor SFAF would release information about how



AIDS Walk marchers.

much money each agency was awarded.

The \$875,000 in overhead costs for AIDS Walk San Francisco includes the \$95,000 production fee the SFAF pays Miller Zeichik and Associates. Craig Miller of Miller Zeichik was on hand last Sunday, and said his AIDS Walk events are a prime example of cost-efficient fundraising. SFAF officials said that 76 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to HIV/AIDS services.

SFAF: boycott Zantac

The most significant piece of news during the opening ceremony came from Paul Wisotzky, SFAF's board president and a person living with AIDS. Wisotzky said the foundation has joined ACT UP/Golden Gate and other activist groups in officially boycotting Glaxo Wellcome's popular and profitable over-the-counter antacid product Zantac. Glaxo is accused of dragging its feet on the promising new antiviral drug 1592 (also called abacavir). [See related story, page 21.]

Last month, SFAF officials said the foundation was working with ACT UP/Golden Gate in talking to Glaxo about getting the giant pharmaceutical company to increase compassionate use and expanded access programs for 1592. Glaxo is about to start Phase III clinical trials; data from those will go to the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"You can help. Boycott Zantac and send a strong message to Glaxo that we need 1592 now," Wisotzky said to the thousands of people in the audience. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mud will be flung this Saturday

by Ron Lazar

Where do you meet queer men who really know how to enjoy slinging mud? If you answered "a bar," think again. When a real queer man wants to have the most fun possible throwing mud at his brother queers, he puts on his best bad clothes and stomps into Club Mud.

This sex-oriented club makes "dirty sex" a whole new experience. Starting with a clothes-on mudfest wrestling pit of men — stroking, mucking, groping, squeezing, and squooshing — it turns into a motor oil orgy and ends with a rousing outdoor shower scene. Club Mud is an all-male orgy that is fun and safe.

Run by Brother Duke and his lover, Rat, Club Mud boasts a membership of over 100 men internationally, and this Saturday, July 26, they will host their Annual Club Mud Summer Mudfest on their hundred acre site in the hills of Forestville, near Guerneville.

Brother Duke tells uninitiated mudders that removing axle grease and motor oil is no problem — because "mud is an excellent way to remove everything." Including one's inhibitions.

What is it like for a newcomer? "I think a lot of us have patience with new people. You know if you



Down and dirty: Three satisfied Club Mud customers.

go into a bar, you sometimes feel discrimination. People may not like you because you're too short, or too tall, or not bearded enough, or whatever. I don't see that happen at our parties. Everybody wants everybody to get muddy, and we sort of lead you into it." Contests include wrestling,

greased human pig, and best wet T-shirt. Hot showers and BBQ facilities are provided (bring your own food) and overnight camping is okay.

"Reservations are recommended," Duke told the B.A.R., "because we max out around 30 people." ▼

'Silver Bullet' hits community center between the eyes

Coors donation stirs controversy

by Cynthia Laird

A \$4,000 contribution from Coors Brewing Company to the planned Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center in San Francisco has been criticized by gay labor representatives, who want the Community Center Project (CCP) Board of Directors to return the money. At the CCP's July 16 meeting, the board decided to send the matter back to the executive committee for further discussion before a decision is made next month.

The gay community launched a boycott against Coors in conjunction with an AFL-CIO-led boycott that was active in the late 1970s. The AFL-CIO ended its boycott about ten years ago. At the time, Coors management had a different attitude toward queer workers and did not have the policies that exist today, one lesbian Coors worker told the CCP board.

"I can understand the animosity toward Coors that may linger among some ... however, that boycott succeeded in getting Coors to change its policies," said Ann Berry, who's worked at Coors as a maintenance electrician since 1988. "A new generation of Coors family members has implemented more progressive policies."

Coors Brewing Company has instituted gay-friendly policies, including domestic partner benefits for employees, a lesbian and gay employee association, and diversity training for all Coors employees, Berry said.

The Adolph Coors family, which owns the privately-held brewery, continues to donate money to right-wing, anti-gay groups, said Howard Wallace, co-chair of Pride at Work.

Wallace told the CCP board that the boycott has not ended. He plans to go to several gay political groups to get reaffirmation for the boycott.

CCP board members said they were not aware that there was still an active boycott against Coors and asked Wallace to provide specific information on what that means. The board is taking the matter seriously and wants to consider implications of any action very carefully, said Randy Miller, vice president.

Take the money and fight

Miller told the B.A.R. that he thinks the board should keep the money. "I really do believe in taking the money from Coors and using it to actively fight against them."

Board member Scott Shafer also said he's leaning toward keeping the money. "Once the board decides to accept corporate dona-

tions of any kind, it's hard to find corporate dollars that are free from any questions.

"This is not about whether the community center supports Coors," Shafer added. "Our mission is to build the community center and to do it in a way that's consistent with people in our community."

Shafer said Coors has "clearly made outstanding progress in the workplace." He credited Wallace, an organizer for the Service Employees International Union Local 250, and other organized labor groups for bringing about the changes.

"There's no doubt that without that Coors wouldn't have what they have today," Shafer told the B.A.R.

Wallace said the positive changes at Coors are "all fine and good, but they were wrenched from the corporation through the boycott."

The CCP has gotten one phone call and one person at last month's pride festival who spoke against the community center accepting the \$4,000, Shafer said. ▼

The CCP board's next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20. For more information, call the CCP at (415) 241-1526 or Wallace at (415) 284-7519.



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A candid conversation with Dr. Sandra Hernandez

Part I: From bathhouses to garbage

by Cynthia Laird

She stopped at a bank in the Castro one Saturday, and a man approached. "You're Dr. Sandra Hernandez, aren't you?" he asked.

Hernandez acknowledged him. "What do I say, 'No, I'm not'?" she laughed as she recalled the meeting. Immediately, the stranger launched into a discourse and asked about her position as the city's number one health official about private rooms in sex clubs. After listening to him, Hernandez started to point out the data. As she tells the story, he soon lost interest.

The conversation didn't bother her. As the city's health director since January 1994, Hernandez, a Latina lesbian, has had one of the city's most high profile and controversial jobs. But that will come to an end Friday, July 25 when Hernandez will, as she puts it, "return to civilian life." She will leave the Department of Public Health (DPH) newly reorganized and poised to continue an ambitious substance abuse treatment on demand program.

In August, Hernandez will take the reigns at the San Francisco Foundation. Mayor Willie

Brown and the Health Commission are expected to select the city's next health director soon; in the meantime, Dr. Mitch Katz has assumed the position on an interim basis.

Accountability is responsibility

Since becoming San Francisco's health director, Hernandez has worked tirelessly; she describes herself as a workaholic and is obsessive about getting things right, to the point of doing a final edit of her last report during the July 15 Health Commission meeting. She oversaw the city's largest department that has 6,000 employees and an annual budget of about \$729 million.

In a series of exclusive interviews with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Hernandez candidly discussed many issues. She is a very engaging interview, and even if you don't agree with the DPH policies she has helped implement, it becomes evident upon listening to her that she is passionate about public health in general, and the AIDS epidemic in particular.

Hernandez began by discussing her relationship with the press, with which she has not always agreed. The DPH and AIDS Office have been frequent sub-

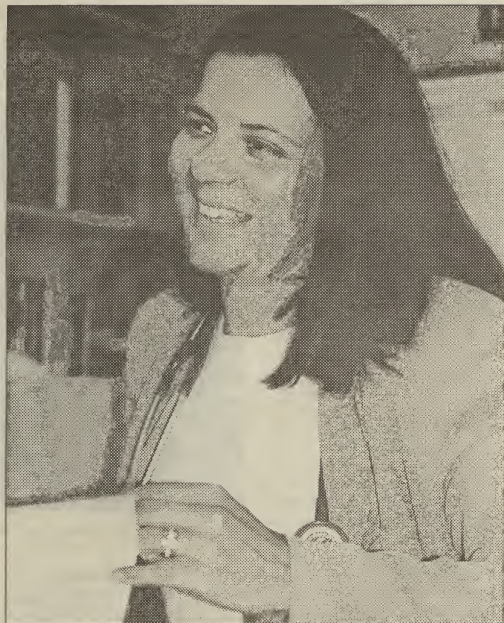
jects of editorials and readers' letters in the *B.A.R.* during her tenure, a situation that may not change with her departure; last week's editorial called upon Katz to reopen the bathhouses now that he is acting health director, which, because of the specific wording of the years-old prohibition, only someone in his position can do. While agreeing that her relationship with the press has not always been smooth, she was clearly satisfied.

"I think the media has been more than fair to me, across the board," she said. "Part of our responsibility is community accountability."

The bathhouse issue

In 1984, before Hernandez arrived in San Francisco from Boston, the city's bathhouses were closed. Today, San Francisco is the only city that has taken the action. Hernandez was asked about that and quickly justified a decision she did not make, but which she strongly supports.

"No city has the size of a gay community as San Francisco, no city is seen as a 'gay city' more than San Francisco," said Hernandez, adding other cities have been unable or unwilling to tackle the issue. "Nobody wants to



Dr. Sandra Hernandez: "I don't think I was ever driven by malignant intentions or personal ambition."

touch it. Should that be influencing us? No, we influence them [other cities].

Hernandez, a practicing physician at San Francisco General Hospital's Ward 86, has treated hundreds of AIDS patients over the years.

"I can't tell you how many men I cared for," she said. "They've either told me they loved every minute spent at the baths, even though it shortened their lives by 30 years, or that they wish they'd never done it."

"People who died in the 1980s got infected in the 1970s. You have to build in the latency period. There's no question that as affirming as it is [bathhouses], it was a major contributor to the number of lives we lost," Hernandez told the *B.A.R.*

Do I believe closing the bath-

house saved lives? Absolutely."

Advisory group after advisory group has continued to recommend the bathhouses remain closed, she added. She acknowledged the argument of civil liberties that surrounds the issue, but believes that while it's a valid point, public health supersedes it.

The discussion isn't over, nor should it be, she said: "I don't think public health policies should be set in stone."

She thinks the recent debates in the gay community about reopening the bathhouses and sex club regulations are primarily the work of a "relatively small group of well-organized people" who are raising the civil liberties banner.

"I still say if you look at the vast diversity of our community,

next page ►

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COMMUNITY NEWS

GLMA gears up for gay docs' symposium next month in SF

by Cynthia Laird

More than 600 gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender physicians and medical students will gather in San Francisco for the 15th annual Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's (GLMA) symposium next month. Those who register before Monday, July 29 can take advantage of early registration fees for the August 21-23 event.

The symposium, entitled "Building Healthy Families," will examine ways to create and support a wide range of family structures in the face of serious health challenges, such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, and societal discrimination. The conference's second day will be GLMA's annual AIDS Update, which is expected to feature nationally respected AIDS experts discussing the latest in HIV prevention, treatment, and research.

Conference highlights will include cutting-edge presentations on the latest research results from studies funded by GLMA's Lesbian Health Fund; psychosocial challenges faced by HIV-positive physicians; and primary medical management for lesbian and gay patients. There will be a GLMA exhibit gallery featuring information about the latest medical products, health and other services, as well as local and national gay and lesbian organizations.

At the symposium's annual banquet on August 23, GLMA achievements awards will be presented to journalist Sherry Boschert, for raising the visibility of lesbian and gay health issues in

the medical press; Oscar-winning filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, for documenting lesbian and gay lives in films such as *Common Threads: Stories From the Quilt*; Dan Foley, for his work as lead attorney in the groundbreaking Hawaii same-sex marriage case; Dr. Sandra Hernandez, San Francisco's outgoing Director of Health; John James, publisher of *AIDS Treatment News*; and Gloria Soliz, tobacco control advocate.

Sue Rochman, GLMA's communications director, said the symposium is intended for physicians, medical students, and health policy makers, regardless of sexual orientation.

GLMA: United's not 'official'

Rochman also announced that GLMA has also withdrawn support for United Airlines and will no longer promote the air carrier as its "official" airline. The association made its decision earlier this month because United has failed to adopt domestic partnership policies and is part of a legal challenge to San Francisco's recent non-discrimination law that requires businesses that contract with the city to provide benefits to domestic partners of employees if benefits are provided to spouses.

"As an organization of medical professionals, we cannot publicly endorse a corporation that actively attempts to ignore its responsibility to its gay and lesbian employees and their partners and families," said Dr. Jocelyn White, GLMA president.

Until July 7, when their decision was announced, GLMA had

promoted United as the "official" airline of the upcoming symposium.

"It would be wrong of us to encourage people to travel to a conference dedicated to supporting gay and lesbian families on an airline that refuses to acknowledge the importance of these families," said Ben Schatz, GLMA's executive director.

GLMA also withdrew from consideration a pending application for a \$10,000 United travel grant, Schatz said.

The conference caps several years of dramatic growth for GLMA, which has had a four-fold increase in membership and now has over 1,800 members in all 50 states and 12 countries. Over the last four years, the organization's budget has also increased dramatically.

GLMA was founded in 1981, as the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights. Since then it has changed its name, but not its missions: to combat homophobia within the medical profession and in society at large, and to promote quality healthcare for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender patients. ▼

Conference fees vary for GLMA members and non-members. To register or for more information, call GLMA at (415) 255-4547 or visit their web site at www.glma.org. The symposium will take place at the Crowne Plaza Parc Fifty-Five Hotel. The awards banquet will be held at the San Francisco Design Center.

'esprit de corps.' At 8:30 at night, there would be eight to 10 people there going over contracts, or reviewing requests for proposals. People believed in the mission of the AIDS Office," she said.

Things have changed. "We've gotten to a different place. Prevention is harder, and community leadership has changed," Hernandez explained.

Katz, who runs the AIDS Office now, has a different leadership style, Hernandez said, although she has nothing but praise for her colleague and friend. She and Katz spend Thursday afternoons at Ward 86, meeting with patients.

"I think Mitch is a brilliant public servant; he does most work behind the scenes, that's his style," Hernandez said.

Many of the city's cutting-edge policies and programs, needle exchange, for instance, would not be in place if it hadn't been for Katz, she added.

Proud of her record

In the last three and a half years, Hernandez cited many accomplishments including the health and breast cancer summits; starting substance abuse treatment on demand, and the massive reorganization of the DPH. Work on behalf of providing prenatal care for undocumented women was a huge battle with the state, that "we won on behalf of the whole state, not just

San Francisco," she said.

On a lighter note, Hernandez laughed as she recalled the few, but frantic, days of the short-lived garbage strike that hit the city in late April. The mayor's office paged her just after she'd seen the headline in the newspaper on Thursday, April 24 and inwardly groaned.

"On my way to work, I called Mitch and environmental health [staff]," she said. At City Hall, Hernandez joined the mayor, representatives from the city attorney's office, and Mark Primeau, the city's openly gay director of public works, as they mapped out their plan of action.

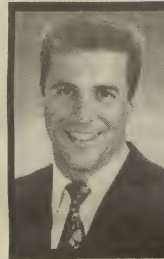
On Friday, April 25, trash was continuing to pile up; Brown called a 5 p.m. news conference and Hernandez was at his side, prepared to declare a state of emergency if the strike continued. DPH officials had gathered the necessary data to satisfy legal issues around the declaration.

She didn't have to do it.

After over an hour of huddling with union and management representatives, Brown and other politicians emerged to announce a likely agreement was only hours away.

"That was real public health," Hernandez said. ▼

Part two of the B.A.R.'s interviews with Hernandez will appear next week.

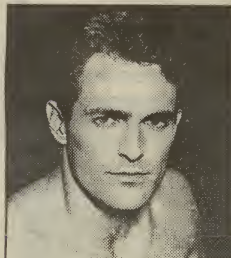


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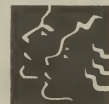
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Hernandez

◀ previous page

even among gay men, people will overwhelmingly say we should not have the bathhouses," Hernandez said.

The AIDS Office 'esprit de corps'

Before she became health director, Hernandez ran the DPH's AIDS Office, the city's "ground zero" in the epidemic. She and Katz have often been lightning rods for criticism, but that's part of the job.

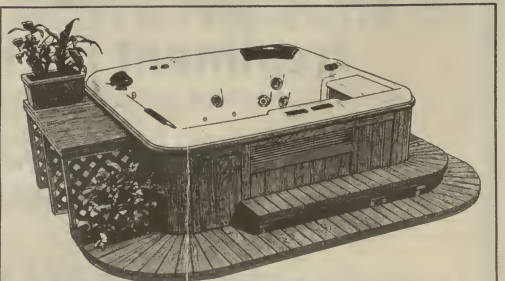
"I think if you were director of the AIDS Office or health director and had taken the path of least resistance, you'll generate no controversy," she said. "I needed to be able to go to bed at night knowing I made the best possible recommendation on behalf of the city."

"I don't think I was ever driven by malignant intentions or personal ambition. No matter what community you look at, I've done something better," she said.

"Are you wrong sometimes? Yeah, probably. You can go back and second guess."

Back when Hernandez ran the AIDS Office, the bureaucracy wasn't as entrenched as it is now, and there wasn't as much cynicism. "To be honest, the AIDS Office job was one of the best jobs I've ever had."

"The AIDS Office then had an



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An HIV prevention study funded by the National Institutes for Health (NIH) is recruiting 100 gay men living in the Bay Area between the ages of 18 and 25 to complete a questionnaire and a test of neuropsychological functioning. Participation in the study will require approximately 1 to 1 1/2 hours. A \$35 participant fee will be paid.

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Settlement talks postpone trial, rally in women prisoners' suit

by Cynthia Laird

The two sides of a class action lawsuit charging poor medical care, neglect, and abuse of women prisoners at two of California's prisons are now holding settlement talks, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. A rally that had been planned for next week has been postponed, since the trial date has been canceled, said Judy Greenspan of the California Coalition for Women Prisoners and the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project of Catholic Charities of the East Bay.

Greenspan said hundreds of flyers promoting the rally had already been distributed when she received word that the July 29 trial date in U.S. District Court in Sacramento has been put on hold.

The class action lawsuit, *Shumate v. Wilson*, was filed over two years ago, Greenspan said. It alleges gross medical neglect and abuse in the treatment of incarcerated women who have HIV/AIDS, cancer, heart disease, sickle cell anemia, tuberculosis, and other illnesses.

Inmates from both the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla (CCWF) and the California Institution for Women in Frontera (CIW) are involved in the lawsuit. Greenspan said there are between four and five law firms representing those in the case, including Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC), and the Northern and Southern

California branches of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

CCWF is the state's largest facility for women; it was built for 2,000 prisoners but now holds approximately 3,000 inmates. CIW confines an additional 1,600 women in a facility designed for 1,000.

LSPC began receiving letters from women at CCWF almost as soon as the prison opened in late 1990. The inmates also contacted other attorneys and legal services in an effort to get their stories to people outside of prison. Greenspan said that the women complained about medical problems ranging from the common cold and flu to chronic illnesses including HIV/AIDS, and diabetes.

Often, the women were unable to receive timely medication refills, according to the lawsuit. Ad-

ditionally, pregnant women, many considered high-risk, were not seen by obstetricians or given necessary sonograms.

One of the plaintiffs in the class action, Mary Roe, is HIV-positive. The lawsuit stated that she was tested for HIV while being held at a county jail. When she arrived at CCWF she was confined to lock-up for nearly two months until her diagnosis could be confirmed. While in lock-up, Roe complained of illness for 10 days until she fell into a coma. No doctor or other medical staff examined her during those 10 days and she was eventually diagnosed with having meningitis, according to the lawsuit.

Although it is not known where both sides are in settlement talks, Greenspan said that apparently the two sides are progressing further than originally expected. ▼

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Jasmine Foundation members at the Walla Walla courthouse.

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Transgender activists protest prison abuses

by Liz Highleyman

Transgender activists demonstrated at the Walla Walla County Superior Court house on the morning of Monday, July 14 to protest abuses of transgendered prisoners in the Washington state prison system. The impetus for the action was a sexual assault on male-to-female transsexual prisoner Crystal Marie Schwenk by a state corrections officer.

Schwenk has initiated a federal lawsuit against the Washington State Department of Corrections, with whom the officer is still employed. The trial, initially scheduled to begin July 14, has been postponed, but demonstrators decided to go forward with the action. The protest was organized by the Jasmine Foundation, a transgender prisoners rights group. Other demonstrators and endorsers in-

cluded members of It's Time Oregon, Intermountain Transgender Outreach, the Boise Bloomers, the Portland Bisexual Alliance, and ACT UP/Golden Gate.

Protesters asserted that abuse of transgender prisoners is common and takes a variety of forms, including misclassification of gender, sexual harassment and assault, and medical neglect.

According to Diana Courvant of It's Time Oregon, "Prison officials often discontinue a transsexual's hormone treatment, even though it's been prescribed by a doctor and it can be life-threatening to discontinue it." Ashley Sinclair of the Jasmine Foundation said that her organization gets many letters from transsexuals in prison who say they are being sexually abused and deprived of medical care. Transgendered people with HIV and AIDS are especially prone to receiving inadequate medical treatment. ▼

Prison activist transferred to Corcoran prison, denied medication

by Cynthia Laird

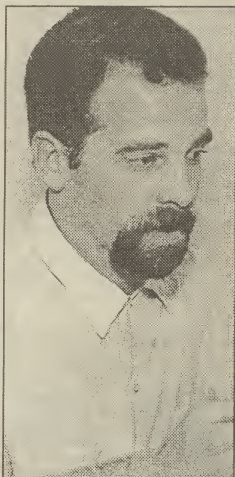
Openly gay prisoner Brian Patrick Carmichael was transferred to Corcoran State Prison late last month and denied medication for over 72 hours, despite his repeated attempts to see medical staff, the Bay Area Reporter has learned.

Carmichael, who advocated on behalf of HIV-positive prisoners while an inmate at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville several years ago, is nearing the end of a five-month prison sentence for allegedly violating his parole by purchasing three condoms at a Southern California adult book store. He has appealed the sentence and is expected to have a court appearance soon in San Bernardino County, as he was originally sent to the prison in Chino. The maximum security Corcoran prison is about four hours away.

Tip Kindel, spokesman for the California Department of Corrections, told the B.A.R. that Carmichael's June 25 transfer to Corcoran was a "routine transfer."

"He was moved to Corcoran to take part in a specific medical program," Kindel said, adding he could not verify Carmichael's claim he was denied medication for over 72 hours.

Because of the distance be-



Brian Patrick Carmichael

tween Corcoran and Chino, Carmichael feels he's effectively been denied access to his attorney now that he has been transferred.

A June 27 letter Carmichael wrote to the B.A.R., however, details his arrival at Corcoran and the numerous attempts he made to see medical staff and to get his medication. On June 26, Carmichael filed an emergency appeal seeking medical attention.

It was apparently ignored by prison officials, and was "bounced from sergeant, to lieutenant, to captain, who, late Thursday afternoon, determined my medical file had not been transferred with me from Chino as is standard policy, if not legal procedure," Carmichael wrote.

Finally, on June 27, at about 10 p.m., a prison staff "came and threw two bags of pills under my door," he wrote. "When I asked him why I'd gone more than 72 hours without medication, he started yelling at me, so I turned the light out and got in bed."

A break in Carmichael's dosing routine is medically dangerous, since it can create potentially fatal drug resistance.

Carmichael also maintains that he is being harassed by corrections officials because of the work he did at Vacaville and other prisons to improve healthcare for prisoners.

Angel Palmer, Carmichael's longtime friend and supporter, recently told the B.A.R. that Carmichael was taken without warning and placed in solitary confinement at Corcoran. Prison staff controlled the amount of light into Carmichael's cell, and he was not allowed to have any of his property with him. No one at the prison, Palmer said, could find the original order to place Carmichael in solitary confinement.

At press time, Kindel had not returned phone calls about this latest incident. ▼

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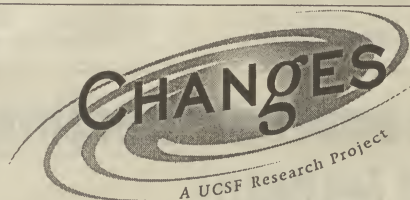
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Prison treatment bill advanced in Sacramento

United Press International

On Tuesday, July 8, the Assembly Public Safety Committee approved legislation to greatly expand substance abuse treatment programs in California prisons. Senate leader Bill Lockyer says about 80 percent of the state's 160,000 inmates have a history of substance abuse, and his bill takes advantage of proven programs for rehabilitating them. ▼



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Love, Bob Livermore
Deceased July 4th, 1992



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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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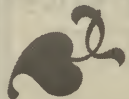
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Michael William Brogan

July 13, 1953 – Aug. 3, 1996



stricken by PML.

Michael was predeceased first by partner Kenneth Agnone, then several years later by partner William B. Parks. He is survived by his loving mother and stepfather, Diane and Cecil; great-aunt and godmother, Madeline; niece, Chelsea Williamson; loving friends, Stephanie and Jake of Oregon; Rob Allen of Arizona; Suzanne Hart of Guerneville; Bob Chok and Dennis Ekstrom of Guerneville; and his last partner and loving companion, Tom Phillips, also of Guerneville.

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Michael moved to the Russian River area from San Francisco in 1988. He had been previously employed by AT&T for many years. He was an original member of Food for Thought, the Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank, working as a fundraising organizer. An avid 49ers football fan, Michael had amassed an amazing collection of team memorabilia. Season after season, his devotion to the team never wavered.

Michael is deeply missed by many friends both in San Francisco and the Guerneville area. If so desired, donations may be made in Michael's name to Food for Thought or Face to Face.

Earl H. McLaughlin

Feb. 10, 1944 – May 16, 1997

Earl, 53, passed peacefully at Coming Home Hospice on May 16 due to AIDS complications. He spent his childhood in Elton, Va.

Earl came to San Francisco in June 1994 to be with his brother, David Gor-



don. He received extraordinary care from Dr. Stamos at the Tom Waddell Clinic for the last three years.

Earl had struggled since 1979 with a debilitating neurological condition that he developed while working for the federal government. His fight against AIDS started in 1989 in Washington, D.C., where he lived most of his adult life and where most of his lifelong friends passed before him.

Earl's last year was spent at Cohen House, Claver House and Coming Home Hospice, where his care was exceptional. I want to thank everyone who made a difference in my brother's life! I truly believe he found peace at the end!

Earl is survived by his mother, Nora Gordon; six brothers, twin George McLaughlin, Billy McLaughlin, Larry McLaughlin, Johnny Gordon, David Gordon and Ray Gordon; sister, Betty St. Peter; six nieces; six nephews; and numerous great-nieces and nephews.

Dear Brother: "May peace and serenity surround you!" In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Coming Home Hospice, 115 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Marc Machado

March 6, 1953 - July 8, 1997



Marc passed peacefully to the next plateau in his spiritual life on July 8 at home in San Francisco. Born in Santa Clara, Cuba, he arrived in Florida in 1964 during the turmoil of Castro's regime. In 1979, Marc moved to San Francisco and lost his heart to the city.

Over the years, Marc befriended many people, and if one's worth is measured by the love one leaves behind, he

truly was "the richest man in town." Marc loved country music and spent most of his free time boot scootin' and dancing with the Gold Rush team. However, his first love was clogging. Marc is survived by his mother and father, Zeida and Pedro; sister and brother-in-law, Zeida and Manuel; his friend of 25 years, Ric; his cat, Troy; and many, many friends who will miss his love and beautiful smile.

Gerald Murray

July 11, 1961 – July 9, 1997



Gerald David Murray passed away July 9 at Davies Medical Center from complications following chemotherapy. He had been an AIDS patient for many years and was courageously beginning a new course of treatment.

Gerald was born in Shelby, Montana, the son of Jack and Marilyn Murray. He attended the University of Montana and Cosmetology School, eventually venturing to San Francisco, where he became an accomplished hair stylist. He worked in shows for Thierry Mugler and Jean-Paul Gaultier, styling top models and Hollywood celebrities. His grace, intelligence and towering good looks drew many to his side.

Gerald was an active volunteer at Project Inform, where he quickly absorbed the latest developments in AIDS research and therapies and passed on his understanding of new medications to both the staff and HIV patients calling him. He had recently returned to college and was hoping to train himself for a new career.

Gerald is survived by his family in Montana, including his parents; his brothers, Jeffrey and Lindsay; and sister, Leslie Cooke. Many loving friends in the Bay Area will miss Gerald. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, August 3, at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.

Kopp goes pro-gay, but Assembly Dems back out

by Marghe Covino

State Senator Quentin Kopp's proposed Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR 47), his most gay-positive bill, passed in both Senate Public Safety Committee and on the Senate floor, but failed in the Assembly Rules Committee on Thursday, July 17. The resolution reiterates what is already in state law: it states that the legislature formally denounces hate crimes and encourages all Californians to support those who

are victims of hate crimes. Although it has no force of law and is not binding upon anyone, it does name specific classes of people who are or have been victims of hate crimes, including sexual orientation as a protected class.

The resolution needed six votes to pass committee, but could only garner five. The rest of the committee, led by Joseph Baca, D-San Bernardino, abstained.

Baca said he abstained because he was uncomfortable over the resolution's specifying

sexual orientation.

Baca apologists say he is really "for" the resolution but that he was elected in a "tough" district with a large and active right-wing constituency that floods his office with threatening calls, inundates his district with brochures, and pickets him when he appears to be leaning toward a gay-positive stance. And, his supporters say, since this resolution has no force of law it's not worth his "dying on the hill for it."

Following Baca's lead, other
next page ►

Clinton holds another meeting with gays and lesbians

But he still likes 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

United Press International

President Clinton heard ideas and opinions from representatives of gay and lesbian groups on a variety of issues, including gays in the military and government, at a meeting Tuesday, July 22.

Officials said following the more than hour-long meeting that Clinton indicated he wants the military to carry out the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which is under review by a task force appointed by Defense Sec-

retary William Cohen.

Clinton also told the group he has five "openly gay" people in the pipeline for top-level government appointments, in addition to about 25 gays and lesbians who have mid-level positions in the administration.

Lorri Jean, director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, said the group "stated very candidly" their feeling about how "gays and lesbians are cast in the society," and called on Clinton to take steps to see them as "part of the fabric of this nation."

The meeting took an emo-

tional turn when members of the group described to Clinton how gay and lesbian youth are abused in some cases by their parents, often leading to homelessness for those teens. Maria Echaveste, the top public liaison in the White House, said that discussion showed "there needs to be a place where kids feel safe."

Clinton met with the groups as part of his outreach program, which includes hearing from Latinos, African-Americans, Native Americans, organized labor, women, and child advocates. ▼

Take this to your doctor

by Stephen LeBlanc,
ACT UP/ Golden Gate
Writers Pool

For people with advanced HIV disease, rapid access to new anti-HIV drugs is a more pressing issue now, with 11 anti-HIV drugs on the market, than it was five years ago. Access is more pressing today because we know that the best chance a person with HIV has to halt disease progression is to combine two, and preferably three, highly active anti-HIV drugs. For maximum benefit, these three drugs should be drugs that have not been taken before and that are not highly cross-resistant with drugs a person has already taken.

But many people with longer-term HIV have kept themselves alive by using anti-HIV drugs aggressively as they became available. Some of these people were already resistant to all available nucleoside analogs (ddI/DDT/ddC/AZT/3TC) when the first protease inhibitors became available. As a result, some physicians are reporting that 40 percent or more of their patients long infected with HIV are now failing combination therapy. If new drug combinations are not made available to fully suppress HIV in these people, AIDS will progress in them and they will remain at risk for illness and death.

There is one new drug, 1592, that could help many of the people failing other anti-virals therapies especially when combined with other newly available drugs. However, the drug's manufacturer, Glaxo Wellcome, has failed to develop the drug rapidly and has been less willing than drug companies have in the past to make the drug available before FDA approval to people who need it. AIDS activists, working with the company for more than a year, feel stonewalled and have therefore taken the unusual step of calling for a boycott of products the company makes where substitutions are available.

As more people learn of Glaxo's unwillingness to assist those most at risk of quickly dying from HIV despite treatment, the boycott has grown and now includes influential medical groups such as the California Nurses Association.

AIDS activists and people with advanced HIV are asking their doctors not to prescribe Glaxo Wellcome's Zantac brand ranitidine (an anti-ulcer drug) or Glaxo's Zovirax brand acyclovir (an anti-Herpes drug) and in both cases to prescribe the available equivalent generic versions of the drugs. Over-the-counter Zantac is also a boycott target and buyers are asked to buy other products containing ranitidine or similar medicines such as Pepcid, Tagamet, or Axid.

Doctors are also being asked to

let Glaxo Wellcome sales representatives know that they are unhappy with Glaxo's delay in developing 1592 and in the limited plans for expanded access to the drug prior to approval.

What is 1592?

1592 is a nucleoside analog that works in a very similar way to AZT, also made by Glaxo, but that is far more potent than AZT. It has been under development for many years and has been in clinical trials since 1995. Initial data indicates that it is reasonably safe and is sometimes effective in patients who have failed most other anti-HIV therapy. Despite promising initial data, Glaxo

Wellcome has repeatedly delayed further trials and in not planning to apply for FDA approval until mid-1998—even though 1592 has been in development twice as long as many recently approved anti-HIV drugs.

After much delay, Glaxo Wellcome has offered a compassionate use program to supply 1592 to 2,500 people in North America, Europe and Australia. However, the number of people who need 1592 in the U.S. alone is estimated at more than 10,000. By contrast, a compassionate access program for the nucleoside analog drug 3TC in 1995 supplied drug to some 35,000 people prior to FDA approval. The start date for the program also is being constantly delayed.

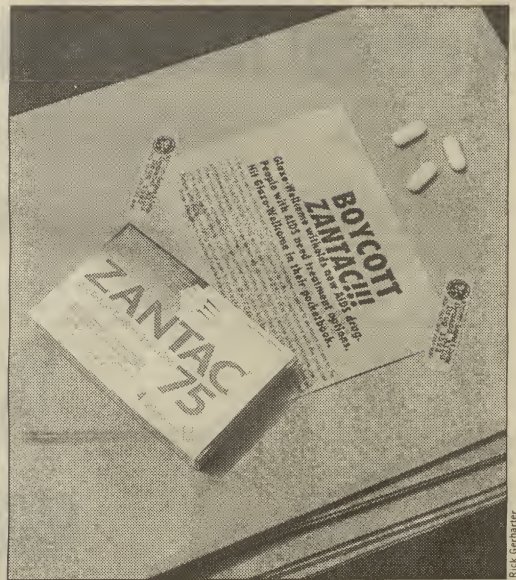
Glaxo Wellcome's claims its many delays result from lack of safety data and an inadequate supply of drug. However, these reasons don't stand up to examination. Generation of safety data is controlled solely by Glaxo Wellcome. If the company feels more data is necessary, the company is fully capable of conducting the studies to generate the data. The ability to produce the drug in sufficient quantities is also entirely up to Glaxo Wellcome. The company certainly has the financial resources to increase production on its own (its pretax profits in 1996 are reported at \$4.7 billion dollars) and it also could contract with outside manufacturers to produce drug, as other pharmaceutical companies have done.

Given the weakness of Glaxo's stated reasons for stalling bringing 1592 to market, activists have speculated that a key reason is that 1592 will most directly compete with AZT and 3TC, Glaxo Wellcome's two current anti-HIV drugs and the most profitable anti-HIV drugs ever. Glaxo may be choosing to delay wide-scale marketing of 1592 until patents on AZT expire or the market for AZT is otherwise exhausted. Glaxo may also then be seeking to limit and expanded access to 1592 so that they are not in the position of supplying free drug to large numbers of people throughout the time that they are delaying full-scale marketing of the drug.

Glaxo Wellcome's drug, 1592,

could be a life-saver for thousands of people who are failing or will soon fail their current anti-retroviral therapy, but not if the company does not move more quickly to make the drug available to people who need it. Glaxo Wellcome, which has made greater profits from the AIDS epidemic than any other pharmaceutical manufacturer, must quickly develop an expanded access program without such a small cap, to effectively serve those most in need of the drug. An effective program will target those people failing other anti-HIV drug combinations but will not exclude those who need 1592 in order to combine it with one or two remaining drugs that they have not failed.

Given what we now know about HIV disease and treatment, such an expanded access program has the potential of saving thousands of those who are now at greatest risk of death from HIV. ▼



Stomach upset: Glaxo Wellcome is the target of a boycott.

Kopp

◀ previous page

Democrats, including the avowedly homophobic Carl Washington, also abstained; the Republicans red-flagged it, wanting the reference to sexual orientation removed—all of which left the resolution hanging for want of one vote.

Linda Macias, Baca's spokesperson, would only say, "It's his choice to abstain. Every member has the right to abstain

on a vote. I can't speak for any other member." She promised to have Baca return Bay Area Reporter telephone calls so he could speak to the issue. Neither Baca nor Macias were available after that.

Kopp staffers were upset about the vote and the attempt to remove the words sexual orientation from the resolution as a condition of its passage. Erin Bradley of Kopp's staff said, "This reaction is not something we'd anticipated. This thing has turned into a gay battle, and

that's not the issue. This is about hate crimes.

"It's just ridiculous—the wording is taken directly from the penal code, what more do they need?"

On Friday, July 18, Kopp sent a letter to Assembly Rules Committee Chair Don Perata, requesting a reconsideration of the resolution. On Tuesday morning, July 22, the request was granted and the resolution will be reheard on Thursday, July 24.

It is not expected to pass out of committee. ▼

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- ▲ no past use of Nevirapine
- ▲ less than 6 months use of d4T

This study will be examining the interaction between these three drugs, and their effect on viral load and CD4 counts.

This combination of drugs represents one from each "class" of antiretrovirals available; Nevirapine is a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, d4T is a nucleoside analogue, and Viracept is the newest protease inhibitor to be approved.

The study will last for seven months and will require two overnight hospital stays. Viral loads and CD4 counts will be done with each visit. \$500. compensation provided.

For more information, please call
Sher Vieira at (415) 353-6215.

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HIVCare is a non-profit program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and is a member of AmFAR's Community Based Clinical Trials Network

ACTION Update

What you can do:

A If people are urged to call or fax the office of Glaxo Wellcome C.E.O. Robert Ingram at 919-248-2100 (phone) or 919-549-7459 (fax). Let him know that you will boycott Zantac and Zovirax until you hear from AIDS activists and the gay press that 1592 is being made available to people who need it.

Critical Massperturbation

by Jim Provenzano

This is the last straw!" proclaimed our multiple hat-wearing leader, Our Mayor.

And what straw was that? It seems The Hat is perturbed by the civil disobedience of a group known as Critical Mass, an increasingly large herd who, on the last Friday of every month, gather at the Embarcadero, and take over Market Street for an hour or so, to make a show of unity among cyclists.

Critical Mass is growing, not because it is trendy, not because it is popular and irreverent, but because it is necessary. Critical Mass intends, on a regular basis, to remind the rest of this excuse for a metropolis that bicycles are and will continue to be a vital part of our traffic. It is a monthly act of civil disobedience against the enemies of the road: brainless blind commuters (like you, perhaps) and MUNI.

This, according to The Hat, is "the last straw."

Nothing disturbs the power-hungry more than those who evade power. Critical Mass has no leaders. This upsets The Hat and the police, because it leaves them with no one to bribe or beat. It is (duh) a mass, a compendium of citizens, or should I say cyclizens, who proselytize the best, most efficient, ecological, and healthful means of transportation in this dinky burg of a city that purports to greatness by calling itself The City, and according to infotainment TV journalist clowns, "The best place on earth!"

As an avid cyclist here in "the best place on earth!" you will ex-

cuse my bias, but I would like to offer a counterpoint to The Hat's uproar. I have a lot of straws, and there never seems to be a last one. Cycling is both a sport and a pastime, but also a risky endeavor in a town where obtaining a driver's license does not require the ownership of eyes.

I wish I had The Hat's sense of utter finality on this issue. But for a cyclist in San Francisco, the straws never end.

Straw #3: Only one week after moving to this fair town over five years ago, I had my first bicycle stolen by a delinquent youth outside my door after having left it alone for less than half a minute to bring groceries up stairs.

Straw #14: One year after moving here, having left my second bicycle securely locked to a parking meter to watch a film, I returned to find not only my bicycle missing, but also the parking meter!

Straws #5, 11, 17, 22, 24, 25 & 40: I was given ample opportunities to sharpen my skills in the repair of blow-outs caused by:

- shoddy construction parts left abandoned on bumpy pot-hole-ridden roads from bloated city contracts with corrupt contractors, whose hands shook not only The Hat's, but other equally suspect elected officials;

- mounds of glass crumbs left from smashed-in car windows from crimes committed by criminals who will never be caught by members of San Francisco's increasingly indolent police department;

- shards of smashed automo-

biles, caused by the combination of inept drivers and intersections designed by cross-eyed dyslexic city planners;

- deliberate vandalism caused by yet more amusing delinquent youths, and the occasional psychotic roommate. (Can't blame Willie for that one!)

Straw #23: suffering the results of the common driver misnomer that BIKE LANE means DOUBLE PARK HERE.

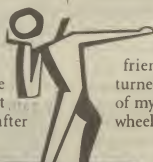
Straw #26: After having dinner with a friend in Noe Valley, I returned to find a large chunk of my third bicycle (the rear wheel) missing.

Straws #14, 19, 27, & 34: Having had the great pleasure of enjoying watching my life pass before my eyes (it's a very good

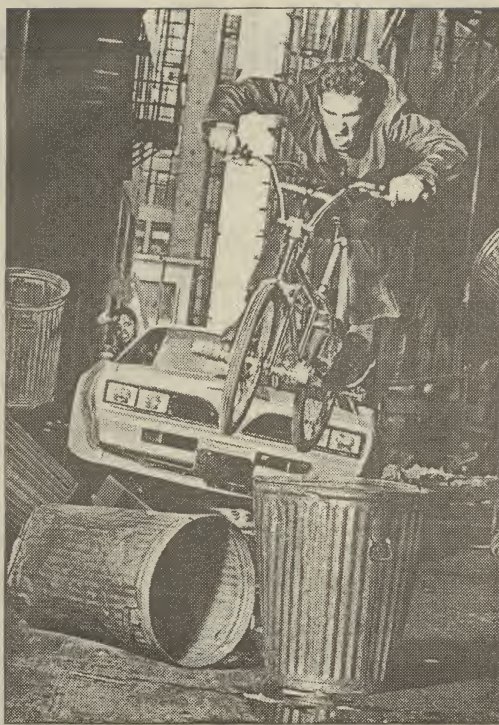
movie, let me tell you!) after almost being smashed to death by MUNI buses, the drivers of which seem to believe that stop signs are made for mere automobiles, I suppose being smashed by a MUNI bus would be a better fate than being smashed to death on a MUNI bus, by a big fat bigoted MUNI driver, which seems to be happening on a much more frequent basis these days.

Straws #13, 15, 28: Being almost doored by tourists and executives named Chet or Chrissie leaving cabs on the wrong side.

Straw #43: Attempting to understand the sheer audacity of The Hat's outrage, when - since he did make an extensive field trip to Communist China to strike "deals" with the evil soulless Chinese dictators who regularly condone the torture, murder, and abuse of millions



Sports Complex



Risky business: San Francisco cyclists face a myriad of obstacles.

of peoples worldwide, specifically Tibetans, and their monks - one would think The Hat would welcome a cityscape that, with the addition of hundreds of cyclists, will soon come to closely resemble the urban terrain of Communist China, and with the help of the police, will come to behave like it as well!

Straw #44: Being almost run down by a MUNI bus with a bicycle rack. When I first saw them - or actually I've never seen anything excepts photo ops - I didn't get it. Bicycle racks on buses? But now, having seen *Soylent Green*, and old footage of Tienamen square, I realize that they are actually bicycle scoops.

But the greatest straw, so great as to not be demeaned with a mere number, but given the Straw Hat Award, is in the form of Il Bruno himself.

At the height of his election campaign, when even a recluse like myself could not escape his garrulous glad-handing, his conspicuous sucking-up to the fag community (which, I will admit, he has supported in this large vil-

lage for decades), Willie Brown, then the Mayor Wannabe, came upon me while I was standing on mid-Castro Street awaiting access to my bank machine. I held my Nishi "the shin-buster" Nishiki in fear (named so after the metal claw-like pedals which seem to bite shins when not in motion), as I do whenever authority figures loom close.

The Hat approached me, made a mimed gesture of access in an impromptu staging of attention and self-promotion. Being overwhelmed by his cartoonish grin, and his pathetic need for accolade and attention that he and other famous people crave, I ceded Nishi. The Hat then rode off downhill.

On the sidewalk. On my bike.

Willie Brown stole my bike. He rode it down the very crowded Castro Street, bumping over homeless waifs and PWAs.

Now, of course, one of his sycophants later returned it (after ample photo ops), but still, I like to think that when the Mayor (or Mayor-to-be) steals your bike, things must be looking up. ▼

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Past Out

◀ page 11

United Artists, which distributed the film, for the city's costs in policing the streets during the protests. When the ACLU objected that the mayor's threat represented a prior restraint against free expression, Feinstein backed off. On the other coast, a New York City attorney proposed (also to no avail) that gays file a multimillion-dollar class-action lawsuit against Friedkin for libeling the gay community.

A minority in the gay community defended the film on First Amendment grounds, but almost no one defended the leather lifestyle. The gay and lesbian community of 1980 was greatly concerned that the American public not associate them with sado-masochism and dark, seedy bars - even to the point of assenting to attacks on the leather subculture. The closest thing to a defender of this aspect of the gay community came from

pro-pornography author and novelist John Rechy, who penned "A Case for Cruising" in the *Village Voice*. But even Rechy relied mostly on support for the freedom of speech and wrote only vaguely about a more open "exploration of our problems."

Despite a strong opening weekend, the film bombed at the box office. Reviews were mediocre at best (*Time* called it "hopelessly fouled up"), and the film - and the protests - quickly faded. Ironically, however, *Cruising* has enjoyed a revival of sorts in recent years. When the film played for a week at the Roxie in San Francisco in 1995, both the *Examiner* and the *Chronicle* ran movie reviews that re-evaluated the film and recommended it strongly. ▼

David Bianco, M.A., is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of the B.A.R. or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pink Saturday

◀ page 1

The need for community discussion over the event became apparent at this year's Pink Saturday, June 28, when flyers littered the Castro, asking "Where's the beer? Where's the stage? Where's the dance?" The flyer, bearing SFLGBTGCC's name, also alluded to SFLGBTGCC holding the city permits for the 1997 event. Past permits were held by MUMC member Barry Hermanson.

Deborah Oakley-Melvin, president of the SFLGBTGCC board, told the B.A.R. the flyers were distributed independently by the committee's Pink Saturday Committee (SFLGBTGCCPSC) and that the members of that group are "very enthusiastic" about the future of the event.

Oakley-Melvin stressed that the committee will go through a thorough public process concerning any changes. The issue of beer sales, for example, is directly tied to the permit, which is currently a non-alcohol one.

"I think the enthusiasm is great," Oakley-Melvin said of the Pink Saturday committee. "We have a community responsibility to get input and go through the process."

Some in the area, however, were surprised by the flyers, including Lion Barnett, a member of the Castro Area Planning and Action (CAPA) executive board.

"Our concern is trying to weigh the need or desire for these big events in order to make the Castro a gay cultural area and the adverse affects that would have on the community," said Barnett, who is also co-chair of the Pond Street Block Association and a member of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association.

Some MUMC members, including Hermanson, are concerned that Pink Saturday will become another Halloween, which only recently was moved away

from the Castro to the Civic Center because of the problems it brought as it outgrew the neighborhood. They fear publicizing a structured Pink Saturday event will only bring more people to an overcrowded neighborhood, perhaps drawing many from outside of the gay community.

Barnett, like Hermanson, prefers simplicity and spontaneity.

"Pink Saturday just sort of happened," said Barnett. "It started being called Pink Saturday about five years ago, although the Castro traditionally got busier on the Saturday before pride." (The first official Pink Saturday, where donations were solicited at gates, was dogged by allegations of misappropriated funds when it failed to return any charitable contributions to pre-announced beneficiary organizations.)

Oakley-Melvin said that public statements in favor of keeping the event small ignore the reality. "It's already big. No matter what you do, the Castro will fill up with people the night before the parade."

She said that the pride committee cooperated with the Dyke March this year, and that there is a strong desire to continue that, since the march is also a big part of the Saturday festivities.

"Many of us are altogether fine with it [being] kept to a minimum," Barnett told the B.A.R. The alternative, in his opinion, would be to move it out of the Castro.

Supporters of building the event into a large-scale party claim that an expression of gay pride on Pink Saturday requires that something take place in the Castro, the spiritual heart of the gay community.

If you have an opinion, there is no better time to express it. ▼

Tonight's meeting will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in the auditorium at the Harvey Milk Academy, 4235 19th Street, at Collingwood.

SFAF

◀ page 1

When foundation administrators learned on Friday, July 18 that the B.A.R. was in possession of a copy of the transcripts, they immediately cried foul; at first Christen said they were forged. On Monday, July 21, Christen publicly said the document was stolen. Rodrigues has acknowledged the transcripts are not forged.

"The transcripts are not public information and are in fact confidential client information. The transcripts... are stolen documents. I did want to go on record, the transcripts are stolen," Christen said on Monday. She declined a request to be interviewed for this story.

AIDS activist Michael Petrelis, who is one of those in possession of the transcripts, accused the foundation of lying in its *Out-Reach* article about the focus group data. "Only when we obtain secret documents can we force them to meet our needs," Petrelis said, referring to people living with AIDS (PWAs). "These transcripts are the AIDS equivalent of the Pentagon Papers."

Rodrigues said the SFAF made an effort to discuss focus group data with local reporters several weeks ago, although the meeting would not have included viewing the 300-plus pages of transcripts. Rodrigues said the foundation could not respond to specific information in the transcripts, because participants were assured confidentiality before and during each focus group.

"We cannot make those documents available, and we sought outside advice on that," Rodrigues told the B.A.R. "We presume the individual is in possession of a stolen copy of the transcripts. We made a commitment to each participant, twice, that information would be held in the strictest confidence. We guard client confi-

dentiality very viciously."

A news release dated July 21 does mention client concerns and efforts to address them.

A review of the transcripts showed one of the most frequently mentioned complaints was not about high staff salaries; rather, it concerned the new *HIV Resource Guide*. The book was published in December 1996 and is in English and Spanish. The format, however, is completely different from the previous edition, and that, apparently, has led to the complaints. Some people also said they didn't even know the foundation has a resource guide and wondered why they weren't given a copy.

The 1997-98 resource guide lists agencies, hospitals, and local HIV/AIDS services alphabetically, rather than by category as in the 1995-96 edition. The 466-page book is comprehensive, however, and contains more information than the old one.

"They've come out with this book that they've done recently, an A to Z that's a source book that's incomprehensible. What they've done is married Spanish and English together instead of splitting the book," one focus group participant said.

Others said the new format is harder for them to use, but some also liked the new book.

Rodrigues responded to some of the concerns, when asked what the foundation planned to do. "There are three separate indexes and that might be causing some client confusion."

SFAF staff have debated the format issue and will probably continue to do so. Ultimately, Rodrigues said the goal is to get the information online so that people can type a key word and then get all the resources they need, like housing, for example. Having access to a computer would be where the proposed resource center enters the picture.

"It's surprising, some of the issues that came out of the focus

groups," said Rodrigues.

One thing was not surprising: the issue of staff salaries was mentioned by focus group participants. "They get big salaries" was one frequently mentioned comment.

"I think they're running on their past performance. Their present [performance] is nothing," said one person. "I don't support the AIDS Walk anymore or any of that shit. Most all that money that goes to the AIDS Walk goes to their salaries and generating more money for the next dance-a-thon."

Others remarked that it took "years of bitching before they got somebody with HIV on the board." Wisotzky is one of several people living with HIV/AIDS who is currently on the board.

Personnel issues also came up during the focus groups. There were positive and negative comments made about SFAF staff members.

On the positive side, several people said their SFAF case workers are knowledgeable and understanding. "Mine is superb. ... I think she's top-notch. I couldn't ask for anyone better," one person said. "Whatever she has, if she doesn't have the book there, she'll go look on the computer. If she can't get it to you, she'll send it to you in an envelope the next day. I've never had a problem with anything."

Others didn't have the same experience. Out of frustration, one person said he told his case worker that he felt he had outgrown the foundation. "And she said, yes, you're right. So I just [felt] very deflated. I went out. So, I haven't gone back since then and I don't know what to make of it."

Someone else said they felt intimidated when they went to the foundation to ask a question and staff were hanging around a desk. "I started to say something and they all looked at me, I felt intimidated. And I just walked out of there and I thought, well, fuck them."

"I went to AIDS Health Project and they, by comparison, rolled out the red carpet for me." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215252

The following person(s) are doing business as CRUNCHY'S VENDING, 639 Geary St. #507, San Francisco, CA 94102: Paul Leon Grattarola, 639 Geary St. #507, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Paul L. Grattarola. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 30, 1997. July 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME 166460

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as NICCO'S, 634 Cortland Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: September 15, 1992. FRANK A. FASANO, 837 Peralta Ave., San Francisco CA 94110. This business was conducted by an individual. Signed Frank A. Fasano, owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date July 26, 1997 Gregory J. Diaz, County Clerk-Recorder, by Dema Wong. July 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 987751

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of KANAN

YEAR for change of name. The application of KANAN YEAR for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that KANAN YEAR has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to LINDA MONICA YEAR. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 11th day of August, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 26th day of June, 1997. July 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: June 20, 1997. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: PACIFIC POWER-HOUSE PARTNERSHIP L PSHIP. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 900 NORTH POINT ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109. For the following type of license: 47.0N-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE. July 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215376

The following person(s) are doing business as DERAPAGE, 225 Fell St., #22, San Francisco, CA 94102: Mark William Som-

merfield, 225 Fell St., #22, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Mark Sommerfield. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 3, 1997. July 10, 17, 24, 31, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214994

The following person(s) are doing business as ANDERSON KILL & OLICK, Citicorp Center, one Sansome Street, Suite 1610, San Francisco, CA 94104: Stanzler, P.C. (California), Citicorp Center, One Sansome Street, Suite 1610, San Francisco, CA 94104: Anderson Kill & Ollick, P.C. (New York), 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 1, 1996. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Lori C. Seegers, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 19, 1997. July 10, 17, 24, 31, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215180

The following person(s) are doing business as SPP INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, 235 Pine Street, Suite 1475, San Francisco, CA 94104: SPP Real Estate (Management-USA), Inc., a Delaware corporation, 235 Pine Street, Suite 1475, San Francisco, CA 94104. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business

LEGAL NOTICES

name on the date of November 1, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Laura S. Brom, Chief Financial Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 26, 1997. July 10, 17, 24, 31, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215410

The following person(s) are doing business as YERBA BUENA PUBLISHING COMPANY, 111 Jones St. #512, San Francisco, CA 94102-3965: Thomas J. McCarthy, 111 Jones St. #512, San Francisco, CA 94102-3965. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 7, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Thomas J. McCarthy. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 7, 1997. July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215607

The following person(s) are doing business as FILLMORE FINE FOOD, 1981 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115: Fuad Issa Dughman, 5 Belmont Dr., Daly City, CA 94015. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June 25, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Fuad I. Dughman. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 11, 1997. July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 987895

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of D'ANDRE LAMAR BROWN-MINOR by and through DIANA BLAIR-MOTHER for change of name. The application of D'ANDRE LAMAR BROWN-MINOR by and through DIANA BLAIR-MOTHER for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that DIANA BLAIR has filed an application proposing that HER SON'S name be changed to JULIAN ALEXANDER BROWN. Now, there-

fore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 15th day of August, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 2nd day of July, 1997. July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 988117

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ROMEO SALVITTI-BALDEVISO for change of name. The application of ROMEO SALVITTI-BALDEVISO for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ROMEO SALVITTI-BALDEVISO has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to ROMEO BALDEVISO-SALVITTI. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 29th day of August, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 14th day of July, 1997. July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215664

The following person(s) are doing business as BUSINESS CONSULTING GROUP, 775 Burnett Avenue #6, San Francisco, CA 94131: RUDDOLF ANDREAS HAENY, 775 Burnett Avenue #6, San Francisco, CA 94131. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 15, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual.

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Signed RUDOLF HAENY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 15, 1997.

July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 215719
The following person(s) are doing business as 1) ONE FOR THE ROAD, 2) DEEP THROAT, 714 14th Street #1, San

Francisco, CA 94114-1132: PHILIP ANDREW CLINE, 714 14th Street #1, San Francisco, CA 94114-1132. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed PHILIP ANDREW CLINE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 18, 1997.
July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 1997.

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New group show at Terrain Gallery provides international perspective on contemporary queer culture.

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Fassbinder showcase tours filmmaker's earliest, rarely seen efforts.

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Cheryl Dunye says she didn't make 'Watermelon Woman' to become a star.

page 34



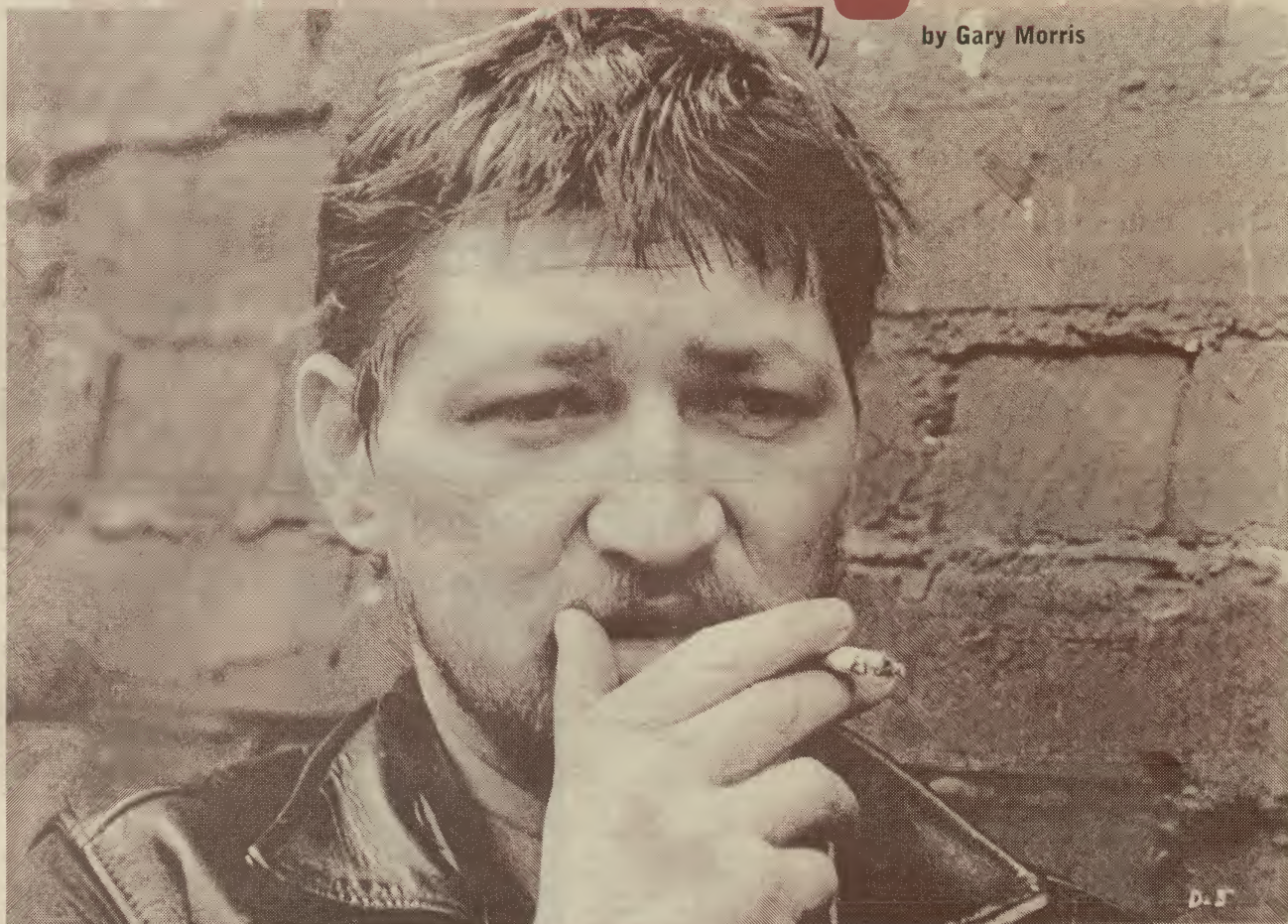
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 30 • 24 July 1997

Dark angel

by Gary Morris



Castro Theater presents 32-film Fassbinder retrospective

Few filmmakers lived their private lives more publicly than Rainer Werner Fassbinder (1945-1982), and few have had those lives so relentlessly linked to their artistic output. Starting at age 21, this self-created *enfant terrible* churned out a formidable number of films, plays, and teleplays, yet despite his heavy work schedule, he still managed to become a well-known habitué of New York's leather bars. Fassbinder was easily recognized and frequently photographed in his trademark leather jacket, dirty jeans, and perpetual scowl. His films were a fixture in art houses of the time, but his personal life — always well-publicized — was riddled with gossip and scandal. Disgruntled actors recounted elaborate tales of his violent ways. Some, like the long-suffering Irm Hermann, claimed physical abuse. Writer Robert Katz quotes Hermann: "He couldn't conceive of my refusing him, and he tried everything. He almost beat me to death on the streets of Bochum." Fassbinder's name was frequently in the papers, sometimes in interviews bitterly denouncing his country: "Better a street-sweeper in Mexico than a filmmaker in Germany!" More notorious was the matter of his suicidal lovers: one hanged himself in jail after a murderous rampage, another was found dead in Fassbinder's apartment. His repertory company was a volatile extended family that included a seemingly endless

string of former, present, and future male lovers, lovelorn women, and even a pair of frustrated wives, Ingrid Caven and Juliane Lorenz. Addicted to booze and drugs (particularly whiskey, Valium, and cocaine), a habit that eventually killed him, Fassbinder's life frequently resembled his films — overworked and overwrought. He eventually overdosed on life.

Born in 1945 to a bourgeois Munich family, Fassbinder rebelled early, unabashedly declaring his homosexuality to his startled father at age 15. He frequented gay bars, where he met Udo Kier — then a drag queen and prostitute — and became his pimp. At the same time, he shifted his aesthetic allegiance from German culture, in which he was well-versed, to Hollywood, often seeing as many as 15 features a week. His own films would borrow equally from classic and modern European sources, from Mann to Artaud to Brecht, and the melodramatics of Hollywood genre pictures. To this mix he would add extensive theatrical experience gained through association with groups like the "Anti-theatre," where he would learn writing, directing, acting, and from which he would cull his own repertory group in the manner of one of his many American cinema heroes, John Ford. Fassbinder outstripped his mentor in sheer Svengali-like seductiveness; this homely, overweight gay rebel generated the fiercest

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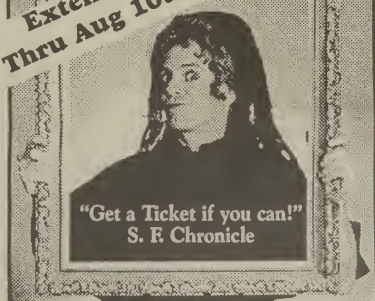
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by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

A recent NBC *Dateline* story revealed that religion is on the rise in America, that now more than ever Americans are searching for a higher power. We don't know (or care) what the rest of America is doing for spiritual sustenance, but last Friday night at the Castro Theatre some 1,500 fags and a handful of dykes found three close facsimiles to the all-powerful in **Patty Duke, Sharon Tate, and Barbara Parkins**, the glamorous stars of 1967's *Valley of the Dolls*, which was treated to a 30th anniversary, benefit screening courtesy of **Marc Huestis** and Outsider Enterprises.

Huestis' Castro event, the latest in a series that has paid tribute to cinema campsterpieces like *The Poseidon Adventure*, *Pink Flamingos*, and *Heat*, was by all accounts his most successful to date. The SRO audience whooped and hollered for the evening's special guest star, Barbara Parkins, and roared its approval of the sideshow, the "Miss Living Doll" contest, whose winner, **Miss Pucci Pusscara**, strangely combined in one person all the glamorizing-verging-on-soul-shrinking-terror that **Jackie Sussann's** torrid tome revels in.

Although the evening's entertainers were the usual suspects, each rose above ubiquity: **Flynn De Marco** was a perfect Anne Wells, her every move suggesting



Barbara Parkins and Marc Huestis.

that "WASP suffering in mink," and **Connie Champagne** made a suitably addled, gutter-mouthed Neely O'Hara. But it was

Matthew Martin as Helen Lawson who stole the show Friday. Any drag artist who can upstage **Susan Hayward** in what is essentially a drag role is some kind of performer. Does Martin do Dunaway?

A nice lady

B.A.R. film critic **Robert Julian**, satisfying a craving for Jujubes, ran to the candy counter during the *Dolls* screening only to run into Barbara Parkins standing in the lobby with her hand inside a gentleman's shirt. Somewhat reluctant-

ly, Parkins was attempting to autograph the fan's chest with a Bic pen. "Shouldn't we use a felt tip for this?" she asked hesitantly. Given the flimsy writing instrument, her admirer had to settle for a large "B," which the actress reproduced atop the man's left pectoral.

When Julian thanked Parkins for her rare candor in discussing her true feelings about stars like **Ryan O'Neal** ("not a nice person, but a great kisser") and **Faye Dunaway** ("Horrible. Mean, mean, mean."), Parkins seemed completely unaware that honesty is a rare commodity in showbiz. And when Julian suggested that the timing might be right for "cashing in," Parkins dismissed the idea that she could be on the verge of a second career. "Do you want it?" Julian asked. "I don't know," Parkins replied with visibly mixed emotions. "I do have an agent, but nobody knows who I am."

Parkins, a nice lady, might want to reevaluate that belief in light of her standing ovations at the Castro last Friday. Her fears proved totally unfounded. "I thought this evening could be deadly," she told Julian. "I was afraid I might walk in and everyone would just sit there silently and wither me. I can't believe the reception I was given."

Parkins had some interesting things to say about her *Dolls* co-stars. Susan Hayward, she revealed, was "spastic," and she "couldn't stand" **Paul Burke**, who played Lyon, Parkins' love interest in the film. In order to get through the kissing scenes with Burke, Parkins said she made herself think of **Cat Stevens**. "He was so delicious," Parkins sighed. (Parkins said she had a brief fling with the singer in the early '70s.)

The actress said Patty Duke was "cold and hard to get to know," but she had nothing but kind words for Sharon Tate, whose home Parkins had been invited to for dinner on August 9, 1969, the night several members of **Charlie Manson's** crazed family sharpened their knives on Tate and her friends in one of America's most sensational crimes. As fate will have things, Parkins was busy that evening preparing for a trip to London.

Full of it

As for the host of the evening, gossip columnist **Ted Casablanca**, well ... At the podium Casablanca confessed to stealing his mother's prescription tranquilizers as a kid and tripping out in his Texas basement. Judging from his disjointed thought transitions and generally spaced-out demeanor onstage last Friday, he still hasn't put away childish things. Casablanca did not ask provocative questions nor did he

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THEATRE

Dunaway comes to SF

Pithy Galore nearly went into a catatonic seizure when she learned late Monday afternoon that Faye Dunaway, star of *Mommie Dearest*, *Chinatown*, *Network*, and *Bonnie & Clyde*, is coming to SF with *Master Class*, Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning play about the legendary singer Maria Callas. *Master Class* presents Callas as she puts young aspiring opera singers through their paces, challenging them toward excellence. The master class conjures the explosively witty Callas and explores the singer's famously tempestuous and passionate nature. Sounds like a perfect vehicle for Faye!

Master Class, directed by Leonard Foglia, opens Tuesday, August 12 and plays through Sunday, August 24 at the Golden Gate Theatre. Tickets (\$17-\$47) go on sale Thursday, July 24. Call BASS at 776-1999 or pick them up at the Orpheum Theatre box office (1192 Market St.). ▼



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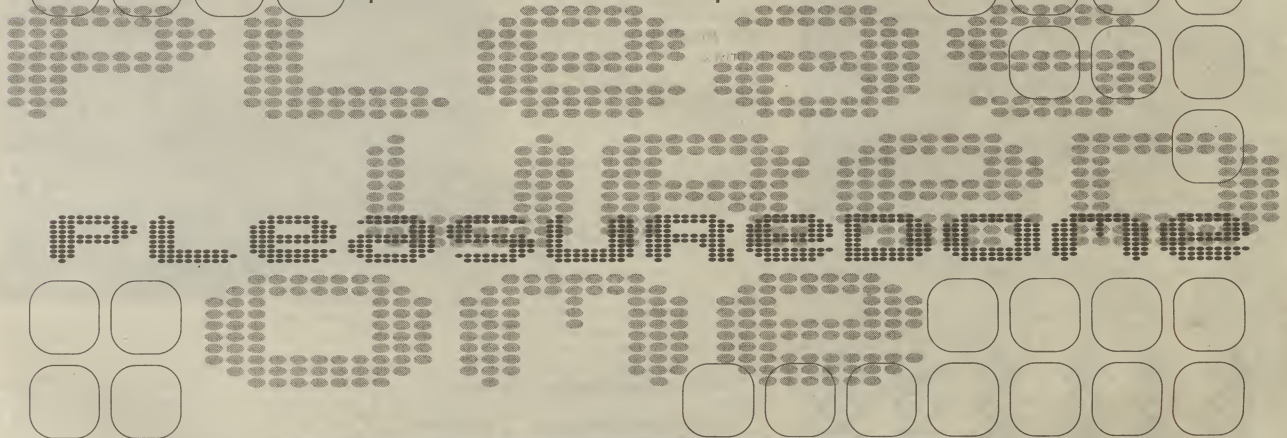
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Raining on our parade

'it's raining (wo/men)' at Terrain Gallery

by Steven Jenkins

seem to be the only person who has a thing for CNN's dapper weatherman, Flip Spiceland. I'm not sure if it's his absurdly spiffy name I can't resist or his reliable predictions of incoming cumulous cloud formations. Flip promised sunshine for Pride Parade Sunday a few weeks ago, and, sure enough, San Francisco was bathed in golden rays as the prideful throngs shook their groove thangs down Market Street.

Come rain or shine, however, the real appeal of the parade is checking out the guys and gals in their Sunday best and tuning in to the community's annual attitudes and sensibilities. This year, the proceedings were customarily festive and fabulous, yet rooted in the daily realities of minority

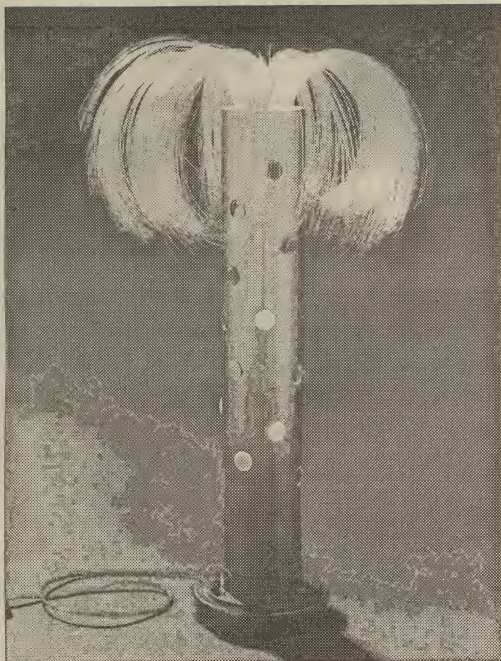
identity and pandemic loss. This dichotomy is also reflected in *it's raining (wo/men)*, a compelling group show at Terrain Gallery featuring nearly 20 artists — gay and straight, local and international — whose work is related to lesbian and gay culture. Borrowing its title from the Weather Girls' perennial dance-club favorite, which plays in the gallery along with other tunes, *it's raining (wo/men)* encompasses philosophical and stylistic extremes, just like the diverse community it seeks to celebrate and challenge.

Recalling the massive *In A Different Light* show at the Berkeley Art Museum a couple of years ago, *it's raining (wo/men)* explores the intertwined realms of visual culture, sexual identity, and queer practice. Curators Armando Rascon and Peter Wright have wisely chosen to emphasize deft technique, daft experimentation, and

conceptual work while keeping the kitsch factor to a minimum. Socially conscious, unapologetically personal, sometimes confrontational, and more than a little kinky, the 45 works in this show offer as many contrasting views of lesbian and gay culture as did the floats in last month's parade.

Xavier Castellanos' paintings of the community's geographic and spiritual nexus, the intersection of Market and Castro, are emblematic of the exhibition's teasing tone and its refusal to whitewash community foibles and pretensions. Castellanos' colorful depictions of the local Mecca at first appear genuinely rosy with their bursting colors, bustling energy, and glorification of the Castro Theatre marquee. On second glance, the streets look impossibly clean, the muscle boys appear uncomfortably trapped in their too-perfect bodies, and a blurred signpost proclaims the entire scene as either gay and lesbian *future or fiction*. Perhaps this picture of homogeneous happiness is merely a wish-fulfillment illusion.

But wait, we all get along, don't we? Lesley Ruda imagines a world divided by orientation lines in *transgendered objects* (candlesticks), which features a globe split in half and covered with vast regions labeled "Homosexual Conversion Zone," "Heterosexual Decontamination Gulch," and "The



Cheryl Riley's Tribal Wand Lamp.

Gulf of Compassion." There's little compassion in Seth Michael Forman's ambiguous narrative paintings. In *The Conversion*, a man wielding a wooden cross admonishes another man who takes down his own trousers, preparing either for original sin or preacher-and-choir-boy role-playing. Danger also lurks in the form of horns-and-tail corruption in Mario Calvano's *Devil in the*

Bathroom.

Michael Dowling offers up votive prayers to lost comrades in three totemic sculptures collaged in newspaper. The first column is plastered with ads much like those that flank many a B.A.R. article, promising "Local Action" with studs who want to "Meet Men Tonight" and who are just a 900 number away. The second column's clippings mention theatre and *Angels in America*, while the third is a shrine to AIDS awareness and community activism. Above each of these columns are frames in which images have been torn out or partially covered up, suggesting possibilities that have been stripped away. A more hallucinogenic elegy is offered in several messy works by William S. Burroughs.

Several artists fetishize their materials, as with Lesley Ruda's pierced pacifier, *Jewel Box*, Nao Bustamante's stuffed and sewn pink stockings, *Giddy*, and Larry Aleshire's five dolls made from twine, cork, gauze, tape, and wood, named *Because, because, because, because and because*. Sensual delight infuses Cheryl Riley's *Tribal Wand Lamp*, Arnold Kemp's miniature drawing of a bed fit for two (or three, or more), and Michelle Gregory's sculpture *Swoon*, in which an androgynous head is thrown back in ecstasy. Robert Eads has fun with anatomically corrected dolls in *Lesbian Barbie* and *Cowpoke Ken*. My favorite piece in *it's raining (wo/men)* is Rudy Lemcke's *Mourning Becomes Ecstatic*, featuring moody photographic cover art for a nonexistent album, one sure to win over Morrissey fanatics with tunes like "My Dead" and "His Perfect Lover."

The good amount of intriguing work in this show leaves me wanting more, more, more art that attempts to get at the complex facets of gay and lesbian culture. If *it's raining (wo/men)* is just the beginning drizzle, then we need a downpour. Come on, Flip, do your Spiceland magic and bring us a storm. ▼

it's raining (wo/men) is on view through August 16 at Terrain Gallery, 165 Jessie Street, second floor. Proceeds benefit Maitri: Residential Care for People Living with AIDS.



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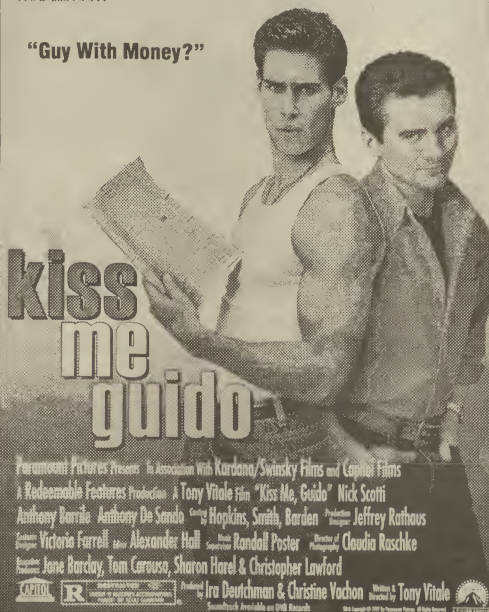
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Flights of fancy

'Psycho Beach Party' and 'Scooter Thomas'

by Chad Jones

Going to shows in Theatre Rhinoceros' basement is a little like playing theater roulette. Because the studio is a rental space available to anyone with a checkbook, you never know what you're going to get. Some great things have sprung from Rhino's underneath: Ronnie Larsen's *Scenes From My Love Life* began there, and John Fisher's *The Joy of Gay Sex* marked that playwright/actor/director's San Francisco debut. But notable productions are more the exception than the rule. The basement usually provides a starting ground for upstart theater companies just finding their dramatic legs.

The current basement production has it both ways. In many ways, this production of Charles Busch's *Psycho Beach Party* is amateurish, which is not necessarily a bad thing; it just requires readjusted expectations. Though the show is not as polished or as flashy as it might be (thanks mostly to lackluster direction by Richard Ginsberg), its sweet disposition more than makes up for its flaws.

In true Charles Busch fashion, *Psycho Beach Party* is at once an homage to films of yore — the Gidget movies and *The Three Faces of Eve* — and a campy send-up of popular culture. The main character, one Chicklet, isn't just

an ordinary beach babe. To start with, she's played by a man (Jason Scott Buro), and she's built, well, like a boy. She loves to surf and, to top it all off, she suffers from a multiple personality disorder. That's where the "psycho" part of the title comes into play. One of her personalities is that of Anne Bowman, a dominatrix with a penchant for shaving every hair off of sleeping sun bathers. Other

personalities include a black grocery store check-out girl, a Jewish psychiatrist, and a teenage male sports enthusiast.

The fun of the play is watching sweet Chicklet/evil Chicklet interact with the surfer dudes (the king of whom is played with good humored swagger by Flynn De Marco), the beach bunnies (all played by the busty and beautifully be-wigged Deena Davenport),

her wacko mother (a truly frightening semi-Joan Crawford imitation by Alison Lustbader), and her nerdy intellectual best friend Berdine (an endearing performance by Diana Brown, who has chosen to speak like Lily Tomlin's Edith Ann character).

Buro's performance as the multifaceted Chicklet is one of this production's chief pleasures. He's a deft comedian who seems to relish the chance to morph from character to character. The way Busch writes his shows, there

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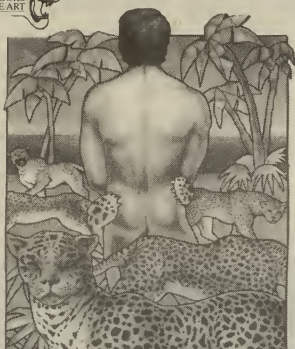


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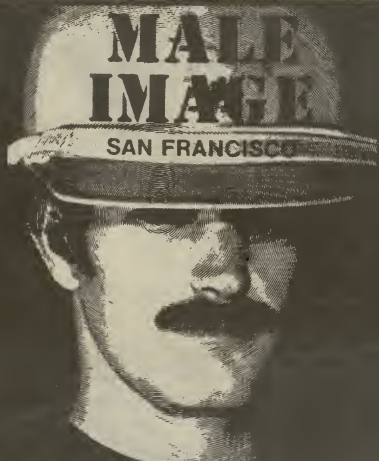
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Portrait of the artist as a young black dyke

Filmmaker Cheryl Dunye

by Erin Blackwell

Cheryl Dunye, the writer, director, and star of *The Watermelon Woman*, is not to be confused with the All-American, middle-class, black dyke filmmaker named Cheryl she portrays onscreen. Born in Liberia to a Liberian father and African-American mother, Dunye considers herself an African American-American, a cultural outsider who is able "to bond with a lot of things that immigrants are dealing with."

Far from aspiring to a singular, assimilated persona, the 31-year-old experimental filmmaker has decided that "being multiple in my approach to my identity as a black lesbian and a black woman is to my advantage."

Like filmmaker, like film. With its all-star cast of multicultural icons including Camille Paglia, Brian Freeman, Sarah Schulman, Jocelyn Taylor, and Cheryl Clarke (plus Guinevere Turner, the *Go Fish* babe), *The Watermelon Woman* is a feast of warring subject positions designed to promote intercultural debate.

When she's not directly contributing to the cultural life of the nation, Dunye is teaching media production and theory to the students of Pitzer College, where her partner Alexandra Juhasz also teaches. (Juhasz, who coproduced *The Watermelon Woman*, appears onscreen as the title character's director and offscreen lover, Martha Page.)

Why did you make this film?

After my MFA from Rutgers in 1993, I started designing a class called African-American Women and Cinema. As I was doing the



Cheryl Dunye

here last year. Do you think they gave it to the right person?

I feel I was justly a recipient of it. I am an American artist making American culture, and it just happens to be a culture that nobody's ever talked about before or nobody really cares about. It's already coded as bad. Sorry, but that's what America's about. You might not like it, but that's why you're living here.

Do you think success will go to your head?

I'm not ready to try to cast Whoopi or whoever else in the second film from Cheryl. My gift as an artist in America is to make you see something in those kind of

get scared!" Labeling me as a deviant. I am to some degree a deviant but I'm also Cheryl, the artist. I think I kind of want to use that double ability that I have to move through the margins. It's the margins that excite me.

The character you play, also named Cheryl, occupies a difficult position at the intersection of her black and lesbian identities.

You see these Cheryl characters in San Francisco trying to negotiate between their desire for interracial stuff and being black. How do you deal with that? Either you're walking down the street like Marlon Riggs ignoring your black brother, or you are in dreadlocks hanging out at the Sisterfest.

How if you want to do both these things? Or how if you want to bring a white person into that space or a black person into that other space? Where do you get the courage to do that? And where do you get the support? And when are things going to change so you can do that? This film is about the conversations about that that people need to have.

How did you manage to capture Camille Paglia?

I wrote the character to be a seedy woman academic who was trying to profiteer off this and that. I sent her the character in the script. She left a message, "Sounds great, but I don't play anybody but Camille. If you want me to play Camille, that's what you get." I said, "Great."

Was she hard to approach?

Camille lives in the Philadelphia area and her present partner and I used to be baby dykes together in Philly. I knew Camille outside of the context of being the bad, bad, bad girl of the lesbian feminist world. I met her at a dinner with her girlfriend. I'm gabbing with the girlfriend and Camille is like, "Who is this woman? How do you both know each other?" It comes from knowing Camille as an older lesbian gal who did what she wanted to do and made a storm. That's how I approached her. She

**The personal is the political.
That's why I give you so much of
myself in the film: because I'm
just another thing. I'm just
another tired lesbian. I'm not
trying to be a star. I'm trying to be
a visible part of the texture.**

research to pull the class together, I came upon nothing. Nothing's really written the way we want it to be written, in the sense of giving details and history. You get little comments about Hattie MacDaniel or Butterfly McQueen. You don't know their full stories the way you would know, say Lana Turner's or Bette Davis'.

[So I thought,] "Why don't I do a project around this? Why don't I incorporate this into my style?" The film speaks to all these wonderful women artists and lesbians from that time in a way that fills the void but opens it up to a universal treatment of people who've been forgotten.

The merit of your \$30,500 NEA grant was debated in the House of Representatives at the same time *The Watermelon Woman* opened the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

uncomfortable spaces which you would otherwise never see. We're ending welfare, we're cutting back on everything in the government, and we're building more prisons. We're basically shifting people from H.U.D. housing to institutionalized housing and nobody's saying anything. Everybody's like, "Okay, yeah, let's throw away the key, they're just bad."

Are you speaking from personal experience?

As an African-American lesbian who has an identity people could care less about. I get followed in department stores or looked at threateningly by the folks in the suburbs. I was living in Claremont for a while. I was not somebody that they usually see: black shaved-head woman with a baseball cap. It's like, "Oh, let me just



Cheryl Dunye, Guinevere Turner, Lise Marie Bronson, and Valarie Walker in *The Watermelon Woman*.

Making history

'The Watermelon Woman'

by Marianne Dresser

In Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman*, Dunye, who plays the film's protagonist Cheryl — a young black lesbian and aspiring filmmaker — dances playfully through the thorny thicket of lesbian and black identity politics. With its loose, quasi-documentary style, *The Watermelon Woman* comes off as a charming slice of latter-day black lesbian life.

Cheryl and her acerbic Afro-centric best friend Tamara (Valarie Walker) work in a video store, mining its archives to indulge their particular tastes: Tamara for black porn, Cheryl for "race movies." She becomes enamored of the "mammy" character in a '30s melodrama called *Plantation Memories*. Determined to unearth the identity of the mysterious actress, known only as the "Watermelon Woman," she sets out to make a documentary. Meanwhile, spurning Tamara's efforts to hook her up with a girlfriend of color, Cheryl gets cruised and seduced by a gorgeous white girl, Diana (*Go Fish*'s Guinevere Turner).

Art mirrors life mirroring art in this faux-verite film-within-a-film. Cheryl's research takes her to an expert on race films (Brian Freeman), the CLIT Archive, a "herstory" center run by an untentious lesbian (writer Sarah Schulman, tongue firmly in cheek), and an interview with Camille Paglia, who, as her pre-tentious academic self, advocates reclaiming the racist stereotypes of the "mammy" and watermelon-loving blacks as symbols of "pleasure and abundance." The film's ambiguous inclusion of this unwitting self-parody by Paglia begs the question: Is Dunye supporting or lambasting with cool irony the real-life intellectual claptrap that poses for cultural theory? (You be the judge; for my part I think Dunye's making a big wink, and aligning herself with queer black camp, as she does when lip-synching the *Watermelon Woman*'s lines in *Plantation Memories*, mammy headwrap and all.)

As Cheryl discovers more about the elusive actress, she also finds parallels between their lives. The *Watermelon Woman* turns out to be fellow Philadelphian Fae Richards, who tried to break into Hollywood under the "tutelage" of a white (lesbian) di-

rector, Martha Page. Cheryl intuitively a more than professional relationship between the two, but her delight in discovering Fae as a

"sister" is leavened by uneasiness about her own liaisons with white women. She finally tracks

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Fassbinder

◀ Arts cover

loyalties among his troupe, and repaid them by eliciting brilliant performances from actors who would never, with rare exceptions like Hanna Schygulla, repeat what they achieved under his tutelage.

The filmmaker ruthlessly attacked both German bourgeois society and the larger limitations of humanity; his films reflect the longing for and impossibility of love and freedom. The existential anxiety and romantic pessimism of his work are summed up in the titles of two of his films: *Love Is Colder Than Death* (1969) and *I Only Want You To Love Me* (1976). His main characters tend to be naïfs, either male or female, who must be rudely, sometimes murderously disabused of their romantic illusions, which threaten the social and philosophical status quo: *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* (1973) details the vicious response of family and community to a lonely white widow who marries a muscular, much younger Moroccan "guest worker." The pitiable Emmi is only absolved of her "crime" when those around her realize their ability to exploit her is threatened. In *Martha* (1973), a nervous, impulsive woman (Margit Carstensen) with a hunger for life marries the wealthy, sophisticated Helmut (Karlheinz Böhm), who hates her spontaneity, innocence, and sheer sense of self and tries to remake her as a reflection of his own bourgeois interests. Fassbinder charts Helmut's suc-



Brad Davis (left) and Fassbinder on the set of *Querelle*.

cess with shrewd visual touches, as in a scene where the two are talking and the camera moves methodically around the scene to position her husband in front of Martha, completely obscuring her. This film also contains one of the director's most harrowing images, when Helmut forces Martha to stay in the sun too long; he's so turned on by her naked, burned body that he rapes her, ignoring her agonized screams.

Fassbinder was not simply a critic of the prevailing order (though he was certainly that). He

who lives in a self-created dream world, a languid environment of overripe richness. Like many Fassbinder characters — indeed like Fassbinder himself — Petra (Margit Carstensen) has a kind of free-floating sexuality. After her heterosexual marriage fails, the "classy," autocratic Petra falls for Karin (Hanna Schygulla), a beautiful, working-class model whose exploitation of Petra mirrors Petra's extraordinary psychological abuse of her silent maid, Marlene (Irm Hermann). Petra's nervous hysterics mask the same kind of charac-



From *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*.

was equally wary of the right and the left, and often found himself charged with everything from misogyny and lack of patriotism to anti-Semitism. *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant* (1971), adapted from his own play, has been cited by some feminist and gay critics as both homophobic and misogynist, perhaps because it shows the kind of class exploitation that spills over from mainstream society into the lives of women and lesbians. The title character is a dress designer

ter found in most of Fassbinder's films — someone desperate for love. At the same time, her antics are juvenile and faintly ridiculous, the foolish tantrums of a child used to getting her own way. Fassbinder portrays the slow meltdown of these relationships as inevitable, and his actresses (there are no men in the film) move in a slow, trance-like way that hints at a vast world of longing beneath the theatrical surface.

The director's theatrical origins, so evident in *Petra von Kant*, resonate throughout his films. Sometimes this tendency manifests itself as a kind of stylized way of acting, with slow, self-conscious gestures, and sometimes in a dazzling, artificial mise-en-scene. This is the case in his final work, the controversial *Querelle* (1982). Adapting Genet's peculiar brand of homoerotic existentialism to film would seem impossible, but Fassbinder dove into the project with relish. *Querelle* is a kitschy wonderland of fetishized homosexual romance, with archetypal gay imagery — leather men, sailors, and an indulgent fag hag played by Jeanne Moreau. The backdrop is a kind of permanent orange sunset, with the architecture a landscape of vague alleys and parts of ships and huge phallic columns that overshadow the action. Fassbinder exploits the sexual and criminal tensions in this enclosed environment, particularly in scenes in-

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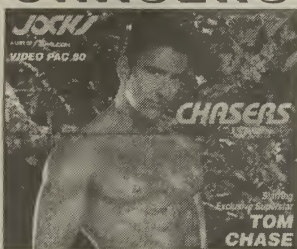
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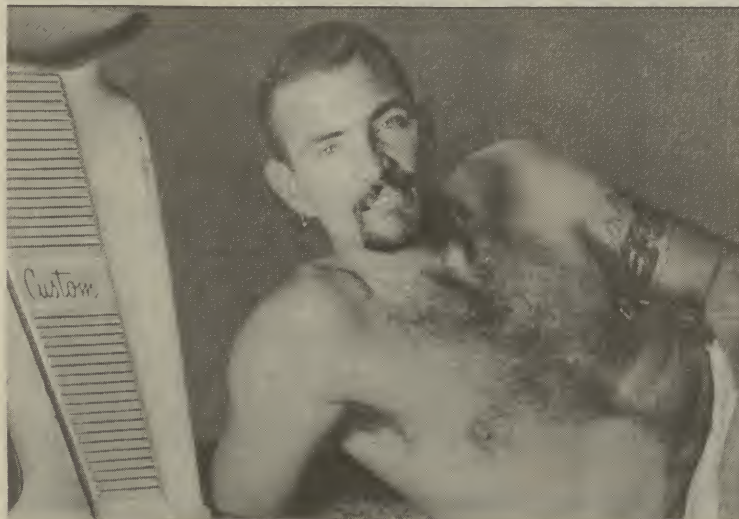


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FILM

Virgin spring

Early Fassbinder as compelling as late

by Dennis Harvey

Rainer Werner Fassbinder died in 1982 at the age of 37, having completed 44 features in 18 years. Some hardy toilers within the "Poverty Row" Z-budget underworld of Hollywood's Golden Age may have rivaled that sheer productivity, but it's doubtful their assembly line aspired to art.

Even Fassbinder himself admitted a certain ambivalence toward his extremely busy youthful output. As early as 1971, he was already dising "these first nine movies" as "too elitist and too private ... they actually were made only for us and for our friends."

Thus spake the then and future career contrarian. By all reliable accounts an impossible man, Fassbinder might be counted on to heighten his own mythos at whatever expense. Part of that parcel is the "later is better" theory, which suggests that his bigger, better-funded, widely seen late '70s, early '80s features are inherently more worthy of attention.

This turns out to be a rather bungled concept. While some "early Fassbinders" are torture gardens indeed, others limn a wilder, more diverse thematic-stylistic breadth than we'd see after *The Marriage of Maria Braun* (1978) made him an international art-house darling. Here are some highlights — and equally bizarre lowlights — from the Castro Theatre's Fassbinder retrospective, running July 25-August 7.

The Niklashausen Journey

The year 1970 saw seven releases from the scarily prodigious Fassbinder, including this one. Inspired by an actual 15th-century shepherd's case, this extremely rare feature follows a sort of socialist messiah (Michael König) as he leads peasants in a failed revolution against corrupt church and feudal state.

Far from being a straight-up "costume drama," the movie incorporates dialogue didacticism, musical sequences, painterly visuals, and Godardian anarchy to achieve something rather like a New German Cinema *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Plays Monday, July 28 (7:15 p.m.).

Rio das Mortes

A droll comic 1970 exercise in which best friends Michel (long-haired blond Michael König) and Gunther (Bavarian-African-American Gunther Kaufmann, then Fassbinder's lover) pursue a Holy Grail-like quest to raise funds for their Peruvian trip. Michel's girlfriend Hanna Schygulla — lounging about in voluptuous furs and feathers, like a '30s siren amid so many



Hanna Schygulla in *Whity*.

skinny hippies — will do almost anything to thwart that departure. Plays Monday, July 28 (9 p.m.).

Whity

Probably nothing from Fassbinder's early career has earned such notoriety — or been so hard to see — as this 1970 feature, then nearly booed off the Berlin Film Festival screen. Its horrified backers prevented further showing; the whole experience was so baroque that Fassbinder made a better-known feature later that year (*Beware of a Holy Whore*) fictionalizing *Whity's* behind-the-scenes disasters.

The movie itself still boggles the mind. Shot in Spain (in Cinemascope yet, with an Ennio Morricone-esque score), it's a sort of Antebellum South-Western Gothic. The title character is an Uncle Tom-ish slave (Kaufmann) who dutifully serves the Nicholson family until their various abuses (actual dialogue: "I love you! I love you! Beat me! Craazy!") drive him to violence.

Blackface, mimeface, miscegenation, homolust, drag, and general horny-greedy-sadistic perversion (plus Hanna Schygulla as a saloon chanteuse singing absurd Weill-esque art songs) dye the prairie landscape deep purple. It's like *Mandingo* meets *The Damned* — a commercially suicidal, indelibly nutty expression of both genre parody and mixed-message moral fervor. The 9 p.m. co-feature is *Beware of a Holy Whore*. Plays Thursday, July 31 (7:10 p.m.).

Bremen Freedom

Several early Fassbinder pics were made for German TV. Some among them, like this paralyzingly static transcription of his own stage play, fly beneath even that medium's technical standards. Supposedly based on an actual 1830s case history, it casts Margit Carstensen as an upper-class housewife whose domestic spiri-

tual suffocation results in serial poisoning of her tormentors.

Shot entirely on a stage, with artily slide-projected "sets," the film would be unwatchable if not for the gorgeous, fascinating Carstensen, a heroine beset by patriarchal society. Plays Monday, August 4 (7 p.m.) with *Mother Kusters Goes to Heaven*.

Fox and His Friends

Fassbinder was at his most self-pitying in this 1974 feature, which would make a great double-bill with Rosa von Praunheim's earlier bourgeoisie-fag-culture indictment *It Is Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverved But the Situation in Which He Lives*.

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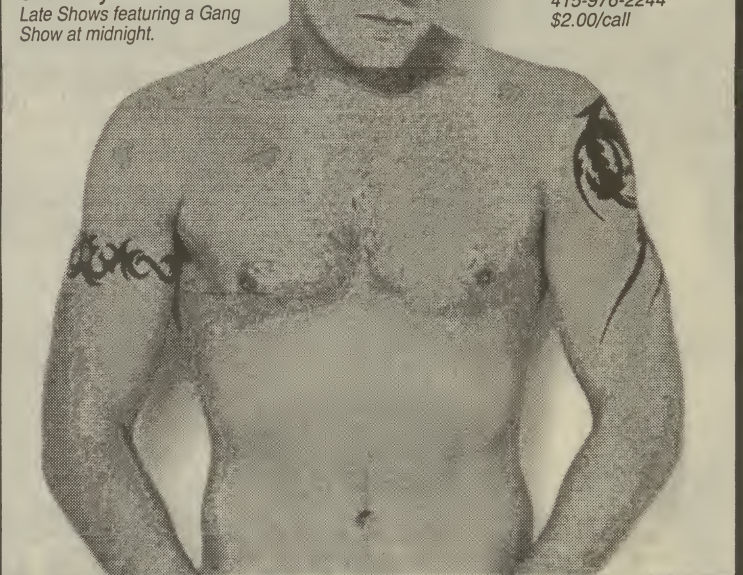
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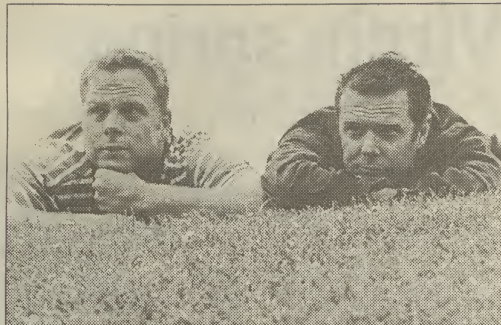
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Psycho Beach

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has to be some genuine theatricality to the performances for the comedy to work. In essence, the more the actors play it straight, as it were, the funnier the show. Buro knows this, so his Chicklet is the hilariously tormented but emotionally centered focus of the show.

Along with his performance as the surf king, De Marco is also the show's costume designer. His bright, colorful '60s designs are a feast for the eyes. The campy comedy is almost upstaged by the parade of swimwear fashions, aloha shirts, and beach bum regalia.

What *Psycho Beach Party* needs most is an appreciative audience. Only a handful of people turned out for the performance I saw last week. With comedy as broad as this, and with actors who know

Will Simkins and Gregg Leadley.

what they're doing, a responsive audience would give this show the kick in the big kahuna it needs.

Male bondingAlso notable in this somewhat tepid summer theater season is an evening of one-act plays produced by Pour Boys Productions at the 450 Geary Studio Theater. The first two, dubbed "curtain raisers," are really no more than Hollywood-related comedy sketches while the centerpiece of the evening is the hour-long *Scooter Thomas Makes It to the Top of the World*.Written by Peter Parnell, who also wrote the similarly themed *The Rise and Rise of Daniel Rocket*, *Scooter Thomas* is the story of a childhood friendship that doesn't make the transition into adulthood. Dennis (Gregg Leadley) is the more responsible friend who grows up to toe the line: college and a career in architecture. Scooter (Will Simkins), as his name implies, is more of a free spirit, a perpetual boy. His life is not a success in the conventional sense, and the play takes place in

flashback as Dennis is preparing to attend Scooter's funeral.

Parnell's writing tends toward the treacly, but the performances by Leadley and Simkins compensate for the sappy awkwardness that often plagues memory plays, especially one that asks its actors to be 11 years old. Director George Simkins keeps things simple, allowing his actors to provide all the color and emotion. Scooter Thomas provides a strong anchor to a highly enjoyable, varied evening that further enhances the considerable reputation of the three-year-old Pour Boys Productions, an intrepid group of "bar-tending" actors who, tired of waiting around for plays to choose them, are busy choosing plays. ▼

Psycho Beach Party continues at Theatre Rhinoceros. Call 861-5079 for information.**Scooter Thomas Makes It to the Top of the World** continues at the 450 Geary Studio Theater on Sundays and Mondays through July 28. Call 673-1172 for information.**The Original USA Gay Party Line****1-268-404-5462****NEW! CHEAP**
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Princess parody

by Jerry Metzker

Varla Jean Merman identifies herself as the illegitimate daughter of Ethel Merman and Ernest Borgnine. Her look and body shape certainly support that assertion, but the performer's voice and personality are more likely to suggest an unlikely cross between Marilyn Monroe and Divine. Merman's show, *I Who Have Nothing*, is a series of wonderfully trashy song parodies and video clips that reveal high camp chomping at the bit. Though the singer can't belt out tunes like Ethel, she easily gives Yma Sumac a run for her money. Varla Jean's reworking of song lyrics from classic tunes are original and hilarious. She takes such songs as Mama Cass' "Dream a Little Dream of Me" and turns it into a tribute to cheese, complete with a bizarre vocal trick involving, no surprise, a can of cheese. Other spoofs include a "School House Rock Medley" and "Talk to the Genitals." The singer's accompanying video clips are as funny as the songs. Not to be missed. ▼

Varla Jean Merman in *I Who Have Nothing* continues through August 3 at Josie's, 3583 16th St. Call 861-7933 for tickets and information.

FILM

Virgin spring

◀ page 37

The director himself plays a carny worker whose lottery windfall suddenly draws attention from various upscale, trendy, life-sucking homos. They amuse, use, and abuse him, and leave him cryin' in the metaphorical rain. Telegraph Michelangelo Signorelli: It's true! Pretty gay boys with money are truly evil! At least Fassbinder's social critiques — gauged over a full career's span — were equal-opportunity in their biliousness. Plays Saturday, July 26 (5:45, 10:25 p.m.) with *Lili Marleen* and *In a Year of Thirteen Moons*.

Satan's Brew

An outstandingly nasty black comedy, this spotlights Kurt Raab as a self-styled, unproductive "poet genius" who abuses everyone around him, notably "idiot" brother Ernst (Volker Spengler), wife Luise (Helen Vita), and toadying librarian-fan Andree (Carstensen). Everybody evidently hated this rambunctious and "tasteless" effort in 1976. Now it looks pretty bril-

From *Fox and His Friends*.

liant. Plays Wednesday, August 6 (5:15, 9:45 p.m.) with *World on a Wire* and *Despair*.

Chinese Roulette

Fassbinder took a career-defining leap into neo-Sirkian, mirror-laden, gliding-pan high style with this brittle 1976 "Gothic thriller." International audiences wouldn't cop to his new gloss for a couple more years. Too bad: They missed a consummately perverse Euro-

trash exercise, complete with ex-Godard icon Anna Karina. She's just one among a host of decadents who gather at a lavish country estate where their would-be extramarital adventures are consistently spoiled by crippled girlchild Angela, who very much enjoys ruining her parents' corrupt fun. Truth-or-dare games ensue; unfortunately (or not), somebody has brought a gun. Plays Tuesday, August 5 (7 p.m.) with *The Third Generation*.

Other early or lesser-noticed Fassbinders worth catching during this Castro Theatre run include 1973's *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* (Wed./30); 1971's *The Merchant of Four Seasons* (Sun./3); 1975's *Mother Kusters Goes to Heaven* (Mon./4); and 1979's *The Third Generation* (Tues./5). For information, call the Castro Theatre, 621-6120. Fassbinder's *Berlin Alexanderplatz* will be screened in seven parts at the Goethe-Institute, Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 2-23. Admission is free. Call 391-0370. ▼

the latter category, and in its way succeeds just as brilliantly in anchoring story and mise-en-scene to the individual. Elvira (Volker Spengler), a transsexual formerly known as Erwin, is one of the most tragic characters ever committed to film. In the days before her suicide, accompanied by a prostitute friend (Ingrid Caven), she decides to visit some of the important people and places in her life. In addition to writing, directing, and editing, Fassbinder also designed the production and served as cameraman, and this concentration of power may have inspired some of the film's extraordinary images. In a virtuosic sequence, Elvira wanders through the slaughterhouse where she worked as Erwin, recounting her history amidst the meat-hooked corpses of cattle whose slit throats rain blood onto the floor. In another unforgettable moment, Elvira returns to the orphanage where she was raised by nuns and

Fassbinder

◀ page 36

volving the title character (Brad Davis). In the first of several erotically charged sequences, Querelle succumbs to being fucked in the ass by Fassbinder's bisexual "black Bavarian" lover from some of his early films, Gunther Kaufmann.

If *Querelle* represents Fassbinder's fatal fantasy of a homoerotic world, *Satan's Brew* (1976) traps a Fassbinder-like character in an equally fatal but more realistic world, one in which the artist is no longer able to create. Kurt Raab plays the blowhard Kranz, a former "poet of the revolution" who's run out of ideas. He lives in a fractured household with a shrewish wife and his demented exhibitionist brother and tries in vain to regain inspiration. This is one of the director's most sexually surreal works, with brutal scenes of sadomasochism played

A handful of Fassbinder's films alone confirm his status as Germany's greatest postwar director, but a review of his complete output puts him at the forefront of world cinema.

uneasily for absurd comedy. In a scene that still seems radical today, Kranz gets a public restroom proposition from a hunky male prostitute who masturbates frankly for the camera during their conversation. With Kranz doubling for him, Fassbinder explores his own masochistic, self-destructive tendencies when Kranz is beat up by a pimp and discovers he enjoys the pain.

Of course Fassbinder was much more than the self-flagellating solipsist of *Satan's Brew*. Complex works like *Despair* (1977), adapted from Nabokov, the 15-hour television drama *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (1980), *The Marriage of Maria Braun* (1978), *Lola* (1981), and *Veronika Voss* (1982), show his breathtaking command of formal narrative, social critique, and use of a wide canvas. Still, he never loses the personal in his search for the universal in either large-scale melodramas or more focused narratives. In *A Year of Thirteen Moons* (1978) falls into

hears the brutal story of her beginnings. Fassbinder's camera relentlessly tracks the nun (played by his mother), who tells Elvira's story; she moves with a palpable fatalism through the grounds, recounting the story in blazing detail, unaware that Elvira has collapsed and can no longer hear.

Bravura sequences like these ensured Fassbinder's status as Germany's greatest postwar director, but a review of his complete output puts him at the forefront of world cinema. This prodigiously inventive artist distilled the best elements of his sources — Brechtian theatrics, Artaud, the Hollywood studio look, classical narrative, and a gay sensibility that wasn't ghettoized — into a body of work that continues to enlighten and disturb. ▼

The Fassbinder retrospective runs July 25-August 7 at the Castro Theatre. Call 621-6120 for information.



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IMs.L '97 winners: Lisa Weiszmliller, 1st runner-up; Genelle Moore, IMs.L '97; and Diva Marie, 2nd runner-up.

A family affair

by Mister Marcus

A little over 13 years ago in Chicago in 1984, a young man representing Colorado stepped into the spotlight as the first black man to win the International Mr. Leather title. Ron Moore, a telephone technician from Denver, will forever be much more than a footnote in the annals of sashdom.

Last Saturday night, July 19, at the beautifully ornate Spreckles Theatre in downtown San Diego, another historic milestone was reached when Ron's younger sister, Genelle Moore of Lincoln, Neb., was named International Ms. Leather 1997 over 10 other women from around the U.S. You could call it a family affair.

Not only was Ms. Moore the second successive black woman to win the title (another first!), but she and her late brother are the first brother and sister to ever capture leatherdom's highest titles! It was bedlam in the audience - and only leather women's shrieks of approval signify complete acceptance.

The first runner-up was the oh-so-friendly Lisa Weiszmliller of Los Angeles, and the second runner-up was Albuquerque's Diva Marie, a dazzling redhead with an equally dazzling personality. Alameda County's Sharon Kleinman managed to capture the Sisterhood Award (formerly Ms. Congeniality).

San Diego's Bobbie Lei d'Courage had an erotic classical

music fantasy, where her partners were a woman dressed as a piano and a darling young woman done up as a cello. Bobbie played the "instruments" with sensual aplomb and wrecked the house. Sharon Kleinman as Samson to her Tina's Delilah was another show-stopper. This fantasy was beyond camp and extremely well-executed. They loved it!

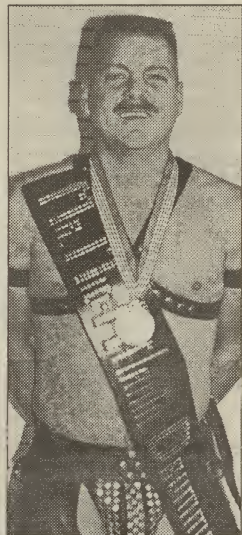
With former IM Drummer Brian Dawson playing straight man (pardon the pun!) to Miranda von Stockhausen's frantic Yellow Cab driver and later Russian Cossack beauty/spy (all in brilliantly colored latex!), the show moved briskly with no intermission and speeches and fantasies alternating. All this in spite of the fact that no "adult" beverages were available!

Judges Leslie Anderson, Cool Cat (into her second "term" as Intl. Ms. Deaf Leather), Alan Selby, the very chic Stephanie Locke, Thom Dombkowski, IML Kevin Cwayna, Lisa Sherman and our own Gayle Rubin (head judge) faced a tough challenge with the IMs.L Class of '97. From the audience's reaction, it's safe to assume they made the right choice.

The host Hanalei Hotel was overrun with leather women (and lots of leather men), all hell-bent on having a good time. The leather mart was small but extremely interesting, and sales were brisk. Interesting workshops and AA meetings were open to everyone, and the registration people were very helpful and efficient. No attitude was in evidence, and the jittery hotel staff calmed down



Bazaar



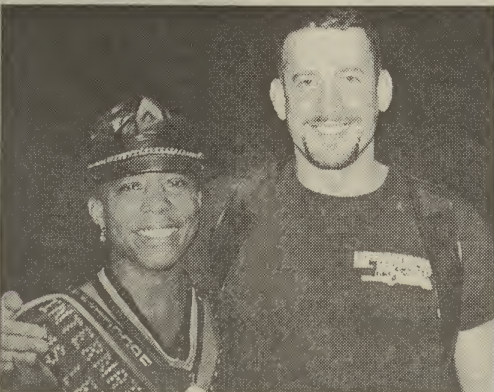
Troy Taylor (Mr. D.C. Drummer) is also Mr. Mid-Atlantic Drummer 1997 and will compete for the IM Drummer title in September.

after realizing they weren't going to be strung-up and whipped! Good reports about all the "play" parties.

The other contestants - Tammy Resnick, Victoria Rose, Beth Downey, Mistress Kendar, Schelli Dittman and Karen Matroni - mingled with everyone. Outgoing IMs.L Jill Carter, escorted by Queen Cougar and Vi Johnson, was the epitome of diplomacy. Their suite was full of well-wishers all weekend, and Jill's roast/party at the Flame was a resounding success. Women from around the world were shamelessly on their knees in adoration of La Carter, who remained cool as a cucumber even with all the drama in progress. Jill's supporters dug deep to raise tons more dollars for the Leather Archives and Museum. Her stepping-aside speech was poignant and garnered a standing ovation; she also gave out five Unsung Hero awards to those who helped her the most during her year.

The contestants' basket auction raised some \$7,100, a very tidy sum for Ms. Moore to use for her many upcoming appearances. By the time you read this, the money should be in Ms. Moore's hands for immediate use. Right, Amy? Hopefully, there will be no bad checks and "refused" credit cards again this year! IMs.L '97 was a hoot, and Bear Images Productions (or whatever they rename it) has an-

next page ►



Genelle Moore poses with her "sash husband," IML Kevin Cwayna, minutes after becoming the new IMs.L '97.

Color her Musty

by Sweet Lips

Run don't walk to Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint to see Crusty Capon, er... Dusty Poupon, uhm... Trusty Coupon, ahh... Fusty Snap-on - OK, OK, Musty Chiffon through August 3. Word of mouth on Ms. Musty has been great, and my favorite poet Mark Doty (*Atlantis*) recently said of her: "Musty Chiffon dwells in a shadow zone between the Extremely Ironic and the Weirdly Sincere. The comedy - and the edge - of her performance derives from this strange balancing act." I'll say! The well-upholstered La Chiffon ("The Psychedelic Cabaret Star") manages to be sexy, funny and moving - sometimes all at the same time! She is truly an original and not to be missed. Call 415/861-7933 for times and reservations.

I've also been hearing good reports on Varla Jean Merman's *I, Who Have Nothing* show at Josie's through August 2. Varla, who bills herself as the daughter of Ethel Merman and Ernest Borgnine, is a great big gal with an even bigger talent. My spies tell me that she really lifts the roof off the place. Kudos to Josie's for providing a venue for these wonderful performers who prove that drag is not only not dead but really undergoing a splendid renaissance.

For all you who say I never cover the East Bay, be aware that on Tuesday, August 19, at 8 p.m. at the Berkeley Good Vibrations Store (2504 San Pablo Avenue at Dwight), there'll be a Toys for Men workshop (\$10, no pre-registration necessary, *men only*). Learn the answers to questions that have troubled gay men since time began. Can an extra-thick rubber band really double as a cock ring? Is there actually such a thing as a "too big" butt plug? (My end table does just fine, thank



Musty Chiffon and Varla Jean Merman.

you.) Join GV staffer Charlie Glickman as he responds to your many penetrating queries on this subject.

Yes, it's true. Maye's Original Oyster House (1233 Polk) has the multidimensional Vaughn Jones tickling the ivories both Saturday and Monday, 6-10 p.m.

That fountain of youth Kent Reeder was recently in town from Palm Springs, and looking fit and trim and terribly tan. In a certain light, he's a dead ringer for George Hamilton - or is it

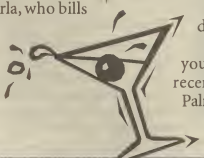
various memorabilia will be unveiled at 7 p.m.!

And the fun just doesn't stop! On Saturday and Sunday, guest alumni bartenders Daniel, Cha Cha, Little Kurt, Danny Dibble, Tyler and, of course, the inimitable Dolly Dale will be on the plank and pouring your favorite cocktails. The delightful Dolly, by the way, will be working with me on Sunday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The Daring Duo reunited again! (Dolly will be here all weekend, and naturally, you know that Dick Cook is moving to the Heart of Dixie - Alabama - to be with Dolly and her ever lovely mother, Agnes.)

On Saturday night, all drinks will be at 1987 prices from 6 to 7 p.m., and dancing from 8 p.m. in the Rendezvous Annex. You haven't lived till you've seen Greta Grass do the Dirty Boogie. It's \$20 at the door after 8 p.m. if you don't have an invitation in hand.

On Sunday, gorge yourself on a delightful buffet courtesy of Dennis "Halvah and Jalapeno" Tyler from 3 p.m. on. In addition, make sure to register for the spectacular prizes that will be given out on Sunday, 5-8 p.m. You must be present to win!

On Sunday, July 26, 3-7 p.m., join the fray at the \$6 beer bust for the Valley Bears at that ursine emporium, the Lone Star Saloon (1354 Harrison). ▼



Cocktail Hour

Alexander?

On Saturday, July 26, Old Rick's Gold Room (939 Geary) is recognizing the super Johnny Wise for his decades of work in the gay community. Come on in and lift a glass to Johnny! Hors d'oeuvres by Dennis "Kangaroo and Kelp" Tyler.

We'll all be shedding a tear and downing a libation or two at the Polk Rendezvous' huge 10th anniversary party, starting Friday, July 25, with the "Last Friday" celebration and continuing all weekend. On Friday, 5-8 p.m., all drinks are \$1 off, plus scrumptious canapés by Dennis "Kava and Quince" Tyler. Plus our salute to the PR in pictures and other

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

nounced that IMs.L '98 will be held in Atlanta, Ga.

All's fair

Here on the home front, on Friday night, July 18, at the Eagle, the presidents and first ladies of the SF Forum clubs staged their beer bust and feed and raised

\$301. All the clubs contributed to the event, which featured stellar entertainment by Suzie Wong, Lee Raymond and Pushy Phyllis. A good time was had by all.

This Sunday, July 27, is the Up Your Alley Fair (Dore Alley), with sponsors Blow Buddies furnishing the porta-potties and Daddy's Bar the liquor booths. So let's hear it for them, boys and girls! Immediately following the fair (1800) is the Mr. Ebony in Leather contest

(open to black leather men only!) at 1015 Folsom. Only \$5 at the door. Want to compete? Applications are available at the Eagle, Daddy's Bar and the Pendulum. Winner goes to IML '98!

Informed sources tell me I was misinformed regarding the new management of Gauntlet Piercing. It is owned by Russ Kassman, Sky Renfro, Irwin Kane and founder Jim Ward. No majority stockholder! Whoops! ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, July 24

Wet Buns and Bottoms Up beer bust at Daddy's, 2000-2300, \$7, raffles, Donna Sachet.

Friday, July 25

Leather Daddy XV will be chosen tonight at the SF-Eagle, 2100-2400, \$7 beer bust. Applications are available at Daddy's Bar and the Eagle.

At the Faultline in L.A., Southern California Drummer Boy contest kicks off around 2100.

Saturday, July 26

Mr. Watering Hole reunion to benefit the AEF, 1500-1800, Daddy's, \$6 beer bust, raffles.

Doug Johnson and Sharon Kleinman host a "pre-Dore Alley Fair" warm-up - beer bust, music, 50/50 raffle, 2100-2400, SF-Eagle - a Names Project benefit.

Mr. Southern California Drummer contest at the Faultline in L.A. at 2200 with a \$10 ducat fee.

The 15 Association's monthly play party, 2100-0200, \$10, BYOB. Guests must arrive with you. Call 673-0452.

Lou Duff's basic rope bondage class, 1230-1600, at the Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. Call 550-0122.

The 11th annual Mud Party at Club Mud, Rio Nido, at high noon. Club Mud, P.O. Box 277, Rio Nido, CA 95471.

Sunday, July 27

Up Your Alley Fair on Dore Alley, 1200-1800. Men, booths, men, booze, men, fun - with liquor bar by Daddy's and toilets by Blow Buddies. Thanks!

Mr. Ebony Leather contest at 1015 Folsom. Page Model deejays; entertainment by Donna Sachet, Deena Jones and Lurch! Only \$5 at the door. Tix at A Different Light. Applications available at the SF-Eagle, Daddy's and the Pendulum.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare
by VERNON SCOTT, UPI

HBO to air Monette biopic

Movies about people with AIDS generally meet with more critical than box-office success, which is no surprise considering the subject matter is intrinsically tragic. But two filmmakers have made a biographical documentary about the late gay writer Paul Monette, who died of AIDS, that transcends tragedy.

Titled *Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End*, the movie includes intimate and provocative footage of the award-winning writer's last years. The picture was financed, filmed, and edited by Monte Brainer and Leslie Kleinberg, who devoted five years to the project until the writer's death in February 1995.

Brainer, a gay man, and Kleinberg, a lesbian, had planned to make a bigger film about gays and lesbians but decided to make a Monette biography instead after they interviewed the writer in 1992. Asked whether their picture could be called entertainment, Brainer replied, "We've shown the film at festivals around the country, and if you judge by audience reaction, I'd say yes. It's not an AIDS tragedy at all."

Thirtysomethings Brainer and Kleinberg came to know Monette well over the two and a half years they worked with him. He said, "Our relationship grew. It was an intimate portrait shot in his house, and after a while we became invisible, blending into the woodwork while we were shooting. Absurd as that sounds, we had the chameleon-like ability to be a non-presence in a room."

Both filmmakers hope their film will help raise awareness of the AIDS crisis at a time when a decrease in deaths from the disease has mistakenly led some to believe the virus has been licked. "Paul hated the red ribbons," Brainer said. "He said it was a nice thought when it started. But he said, 'I thought my life was a big red ribbon with a little Paul Monette pinned to a lapel.'"

"The development of protease inhibitors, the high-tech drugs being used to manage AIDS, aren't cures," Brainer continued. "Doctors say resistance to these drugs will build up. An enormous amount of work must still be done. And that takes millions of dollars."

"Our film is a time capsule of how AIDS was treated within a very particular time frame, from August of 1992 when we began filming Paul, until his death."

"One sees how treatment evolved during that period. People tell me the most memorable scene is where Winston, Paul's companion, is preparing the day's medication — an enormous number of drugs that included some 70 pills."

"Paul's life was intertwined with so many other people and aspects of life," Kleinberg said. "As an artist, Paul was transformed by AIDS, which is an important part of the story. Paul stands for so many other people who have been lost to AIDS. Our film is also a way of honoring them and their memory." ▼

Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End will be shown on HBO's Cinemax Real Life series on August 14. Check local listings for times.



"Janis Joplin, 1966," part of *San Francisco Rock 1960s*, photographs by Herb Greene at Robert Koch Gallery. See Tuesday.

Eri

Co-ed Prison Sluts

Pipedream Productions' musical comedy returns. Fri. & Sat. at 11pm thru summer. \$15. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Dear Diva

Gay advice columnist performs. Fri. thru 8/29. \$5. 8pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

En Drag

Female impersonators revue, hosted by Chablis and Harlow. 9, 10, 11, 30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Kevin Hill

Exhibit of photographs, thru 8/8. ESP, 305 Valencia. 252-8191.

Laughing Wild

The Sea Theatre presents Christopher Durang's comedy. Fri. & Sat. at 10pm, Sun. at 9pm thru 8/17. \$12. Shelton Theatre, 533 Sutter. 433-7875.

Leather Daddy Contest

Emcees SF Leather Daddy XIV Loren Berthelsen and Ms. NLA 1996 Stacey sash new SF Leather Daddy XV. \$7 beer/soda bust, benefits AEF. 9pm. Eagle, 12th & Harrison.

Luna Sea Marathon

Performance marathon celebrating 3 yr. anniversary of women's perf. space. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 7/26. \$8-12. 2940 16th St., #216C. 863-2989.

Moliere 97

Two one-acts: "The Flying Doctor" and "Two Precious Maidens Ridiculed." Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 8/2. \$12-15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 646-0488.

Musty Chiffon

Singer/songwriter, psychedelic cabaret star in revue. Weds.-Sun. at 8pm extended thru July. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The Mystery of Irma Vep

Aurora Theatre Co. & Magic Theatre Co. present Charles Shaw Robinson and Danny Scheie in Charles Ludlam's spoof of gothic horror. Wed.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 7/27. \$20-22. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

People and Protease

Community forum on triple combo therapy presented by AIDS Treatment Education Network, free. 7pm. Gazebo Room, Davies Med. Ctr., Castro & Duboce. 284-6237.

Prep

Arturo Herrera, Jennifer Novack, Car, and three more artists. Thru 7/26. Gallery 16, 1616 16th St. 626-7495.

Signifying Nothing

Paintings and sculpture by Christopher Geron, thru 8/22. Space 743, 743 Harrison. 777-8242.

Spiritual Discussion

"Sex, Celibacy & the Spiritual Seeker," interfaith discussion, free. 6:30pm. 776 Haight. 621-3317.

SwitchStance

Multimedia celebration of SF surfing & skateboarding, thru 8/30. SF Art Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Sylvia

A canine comedy by A.R. Gurney. Tues.-Sun. thru 7/27, call for times. \$25-37. Tonight at 8pm. Marines Mem'l Theatre, 609 Sutter. 771-6900.

Trouble in Tahiti

City Summer Opera presents Leonard Bernstein's one-act opera, with his Songfest. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 7/27. \$15. Diego Rivera Theatre, CCSF, Phelan & Judson. 239-3100.

Unbound

Cine Acción presents videos of Latinas, in conjunction with Galeria de la Raza's Isis Rodriguez exhibition. \$5. 8pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 7/27. \$15-20. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Gay Cuba

Filmmaker Sonja de Vries' inside view of queer rights in Cuba, screened by Internat'l Feminist Brigade. \$3. 7:30pm. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission. 864-1278.

India:

"A Celebration!" 5 exhibitions in honor of 50th yr. of Indian independence. Thru 9/28. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Isis Rodriguez

"My Life as a Comic Stripper," one-person exhibition, thru 8/9. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Kielbasa, Queen of Poland 2

Matthew Worszylo performs musical sequel: QoP on the road. Saturdays thru July at 8:30pm. \$5-7. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-1441.

Ralph Nader Is Missing!

Charlie Varon's new comedy for four actors. Wed.-Sun. extended thru 8/10. Call for times, prices. Tonight at 8:30pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Rosa Montoya

Bailes Flamencos Spanish dancers perform Romance Gitano de la Luna Luna. Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm. \$18-36. Herbst Theatre, War Mem'l Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

Summerfest

Dance festival: Rebecca Salzer Dance Theater, Wendy Diamond, more, Sat. & Sun. at 8:30pm. \$12. Brady St. Dance Ctr., 60 Brady. 646-0661.

Syn

Doug Stevens and the Outband

Gay country/western band mixes two-step, swing, gospel, blues. Sun. thru July. \$7. 4pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

MACT Brunch

Men of All Colors Together meet at Ethiopia Restaurant. 1pm. 2955 Telegraph, Berkeley. 675-0201.

Peter DaSilva

"Beyond the Norm" photographer in person, free. 3pm. Stormy Leather. 1158 Howard. 626-1672.

Scooter Thomas

Makes it to the Top of the World and two more one-acts. Sun. & Mon. at 8pm thru 7/28. \$15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 673-1172.

Summertime

"& the Living Is Easy—Pops!" concert: Michael Morgan conducts members of the Oakland E. Bay Symphony. \$15-40. 4:30pm. Dunsuir House and Gardens, Hwy 580 at 106th Ave., Oakland. (510) 615-5555.

Mon

Betsey Kawamura

Woven photography, thru July. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Brown Boyz

Rap group for gay Latinos 15-25, free. 6:30pm. Proyec-to ContraSida Por Vida, 2973 16th St. 864-7278.

Collaborative Works

By Robert Hudson, Richard Shaw and William Wiley printed at Magnolia Editions, on view daily at 505 Sansome. (510) 834-2527.

Gary Indiana

Reading from his new novel *Resentment*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

Aspiring funny performers sign up by phone, MC Dan Rothenberg, \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Ideas in Animation

Live music set to contemporary animation, guest artist Sten Rudstrom. \$10. 7:30&9:30pm. Minna Street Gallery, 111 Minna. 681-3189.

On the Rim

Artists combining Eastern & Western traditions, incl. Bruce Connor, Squeak Carnwath, Raymond Saunders. Mon.-Fri. thru 8/15. Transamerica Pyramid lobby, 600 Montgomery.

Tues

Bay Area Now

Summer multidisciplinary arts fest & exhibition, 37 local artists. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Candy Darling

"Always a Woman," exhibition on the life of transgender Factory star. Tues.-Sat. thru 8/23. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 292 Sutter. 392-5532.

Construction Career?

Free self-assessment workshop for women. 9am. Project Step-Up, CCSF, 1400 Evans. 550-4444.

El Arte del Cine Mexicano

Original movie posters of the golden age of Mexican cinema, thru 7/30. Polanco Gallery, 292 Hayes. 252-5753.

Foggy City Dancers

Gay & lesbian square dancing, free introductory classes, Tues. at 7:30pm thru 8/5. Live Oak School, 117 Diamond. 905-4546.

Herb Greene

Photos of "San Francisco Rock 1960s," thru 9/6. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

How To Become an American

Comedian Tony Morewood's



Mexican movie poster circa 1949, part of *El Arte del Cine Mexicano* at Polanco Gallery (see Tuesday).



Jessica Dunne's "Taraval Rights," part of SwitchStance at SF Art Commission Gallery. See Friday.

transatlantic adventure. \$6-10. 8:30pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Orland Outland

Reads from *Death Wore a Smart Little Outfit*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Raised by Wolves:

"Photographs and Documents of Runaways by Jim Goldberg" exhibit, thru 9/21. SF-MOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Three Tall Women

Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning play stars Michael Learned, Christina Rounner, Marian Seldes. Call for times and dates. \$20-50. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 776-1999.

Visual Aid's 4th Annual

Exhibition by 32 artists, incl. Michael Johnstone, Marcos Reyes, Barbara Cooper, thru 8/9. The Lab, 2948 16th St. 777-8242.

Wed 30

Candy Preview

Special preview of Candy Darling exhibition, features dragapella beautyshop quartet Kinsey Sicks, benefits Andy Warhol Museum. \$20, \$15 in Candy drag. 7pm. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sutter. 392-5532.

Fantastic Creatures:

"Demons, Dragons, Mermaids, and Monsters from the Permanent Collection," thru 3/29/98. \$3. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0404.

Robert Hopcke

Reads from *There Are No Accidents*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

SF Games

Weekly board and card game group, free. 7:30pm. Muddy's

Coffeehouse, 1304 Valencia. 679-3680.

Single Room Occupancy

Ali Sant and Susan Schwartzberg's installation, with Neil Grimmer's "The Aesthetics of Obsolescence," thru 9/6. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Spirit of Ancient Peru

"Treasures from the Museo Arqueológico Rafael Larco Herrera," Peruvian art exhibition. Wed.-Sun. thru 8/31. \$9.50. de Young Mem'l Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Varla Jean Merman

"Illegitimate daughter of Ethel Merman & Ernest Borgnine" belts out tunes. Wed.-Sat. at 10pm thru 8/2. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Visions of Modernity:

"Photographs from the Peruvian Andes 1900-1930" exhibit.

Thru 8/24. \$3. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0404.

Thur 31

Billy Budd

Venture Theatre presents adaptation of Melville's classic nautical tale, aboard C.A. Thayer. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 8/31. \$25. SF Maritime Nat'l Hist. Park, Hyde St. Pier. 929-0202 x58.

Direct From Nature:

"The Oil Paintings of Thomas Hill," 19th-century landscape artist. Tues.-Sat. thru 8/16. \$3. California Historical Society, 678 Mission. 357-1848.

Eisenhower Hour

New comedy by Rich Baker. Thurs.-Sun. thru 8/3, call for times. \$20-22.50. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

It's Raining (Wo/men):

"In relation to lesbian and gay culture, summer '97" art exhibit, thru 8/16. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

Jane Loves Dick

New musical comedy: can a girl with a 40" chest find true love? Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2&7:30pm. \$15. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. 575-0243.

Shear Madness

Whodunit set in unisex hair-styling salon. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$28-32. Mason Street Theatre, 430 Mason. 982-5463

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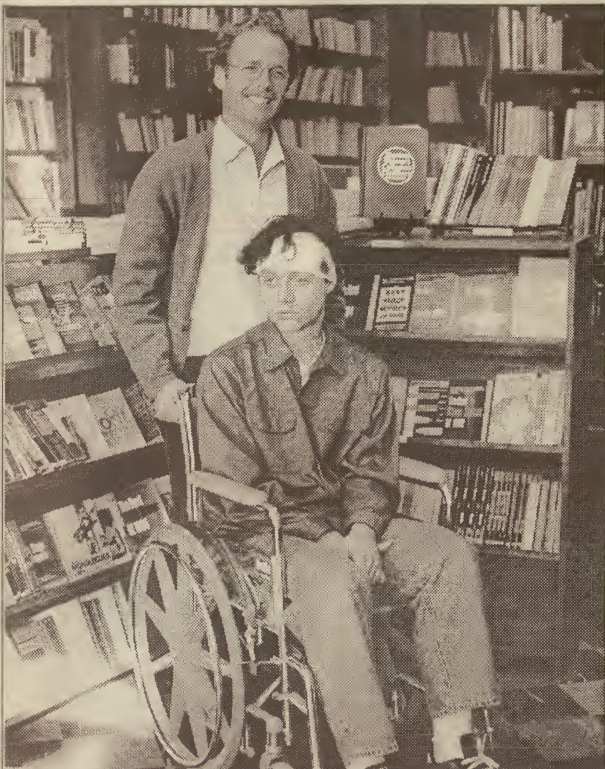
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NEW YORK TIMES

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A bookshop proprietor (Timothy Lane) attempts to cheer up his son (Jason Arquin) in Terri Kasch's drama *Verbatim* at the Exit Theatre. See Friday.

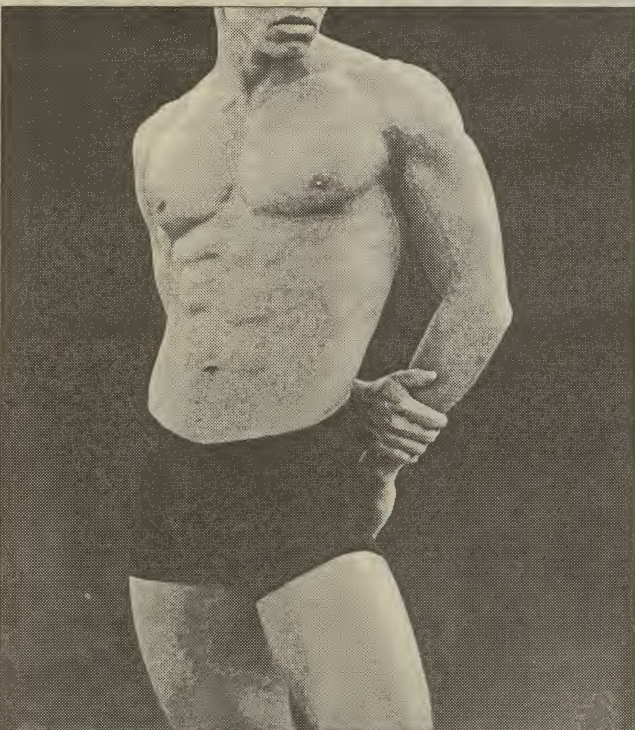
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PARTING GLANCES

Upper Market, 6/26
You were walking up 17th. I was in purple shorts, ready for a run. We both turned and looked, but did not stop. I'd love to meet. Call me. ☎ 7001.

Gray Van Delivery Man
Corner grocery. Scott and Sacramento. Tall, cropped hair, goatee. We cruised each other but you were gone when I got to the store. You looked like you could really deliver. ☎ 7002.

SFO Emp Cafeteria North 6/24/97
You: United emp. non-rev black short sleeve shirt, musc, hot. Sat with friend/ramp. Me: F/A in uniform, short sleeves, tanned, musc. military flatpaw would like 1 on 1. ☎ 7003.

Lucky T-Shirt At Gay Pride
You: blond, beautiful smile, tattoos on both wrists, wearing green coruoy pants. Me: black guy in overalls. Let me show you a good time! Your boyfriend don't need to know. ☎ 7004.

Sun. 6/22 Alamo Square At Scott
You: WM on bike. Me: AM, passenger in white car. At 4:30 AM we looked and smiled twice. Want to join a bike trip. Let's meet. ☎ 7005.

Timothy C. Please Call
Recognized you in a crowd, then you disappeared. Long time since you roller skated on Castro and lived on Pacific. Me on Roosevelt way. You cooked for me. Curious! Dale. ☎ 7006.

Pride Sun 3 PM Embarcadero Ctr
You: muscular, dark hair, shorts, white tank, 2 friends. Me: muscular, dark hair, jeans, black tank, water bottle. We said "hi." You walked down food court and never looked back. ☎ 7043.

Boy Toy Safety Monitor
Parade '97, you asked me if I wanted to get married as I marched by. Call, ask again. ☎ 7044.

Mark-LA On DT Muni 7/1 4:10PM
Thanks for the warmth of your smile & the neck massage. Will you let the Catman return the favor? Dinner for 2, here or there, just as long as it's you and me! ☎ 7060.

Touch SFO
JP, we met but didn't exchange numbers. I would like to get to know you better. Please call. David. ☎ 7045.

"Paco" From Seattle To Sunset!
Last time we met at "Hole in the wall." I realized how delightful it was being with you. I never asked for your phone number. Love to see you again! ☎ 7046.

One Nerd 2 Another; Pink Party
Kissed you hard on the lips, we went to Harvey's. You just moved that day. Would like to do dinner. John. ☎ 7047.

Asian Jock Cafe Flore 7/1 3PM
You: AM wearing Penn state soccer T-shirt and blk. Adidas warm-ups w/model-like female. Me: WM, tall, blonde, sunglasses, suit and tie, and dying to talk. Cafe Flore reunion? Call. ☎ 7048.

Hot 3-Way In Cage @ Blowbuddy.
Thank you guys for a hella good time! I'm the lean blond from July 3rd. Hope to meet up again. Interested? ☎ 7101.

Taqueria Zapata 6/24 2PM
You: tall, dark hair, green plaid sport coat, white dress shirt. Me: at back table, maroon T-shirt. Would love to put a name to that handsome face. Let's talk! ☎ 7102.

6/21 8 Gay Pride
6/21, Phoenix. You: WM, black t/hr jacket. Me: AM, black jacket. We danced next to each other, smiled a lot. We touched on your way out. Gay Pride, Castro Muni train. You: black T-shirt, green stripe shoulder/sleeves. How about actually meeting this time? ☎ 7103.

Spike's Sunday 7/6 9:30 AM
You: handsome, wearing a red T-shirt, cap, driving a station wagon and having coffee with a friend. You spoke with him about getting a new sofa & waved at me, would like to meet. ☎ 7104.

Looking For Mr. Wordstar
SFO from MSP, 8 PM Northwest Flt 355, 6/6. You: hat, glasses, 6 ft, blue Wordstar T-shirt. We exchanged glances, but I chickened out. meet me? ☎ 7105.

City Entertainment 7/6
You: bare chested, built, baseball cap, nipple ring. Me: inside, blue tank, stunned. Oh Baby! Please call. ☎ 7106.

Stop AIDS Booth
Sunday after parade. You: Asian walking by 4 AM, looked back twice. Me: tall, WM, baseball cap, red shirt, eyes and smile for you. ☎ 7107.

Chris W. At Solstice Party
Good to see you again. Couldn't find you later to talk. Have moved. Call sometime. Robert from Sacramento. ☎ 7108.

Big Bear At Pride 97
Big bear at Pride '97 wearing a bra, handsome muscular GM would like to talk to you. ☎ 7109.

July 4th Caltrain 8 AM
You: green baseball hat & shirt. Me: blue shorts, white T, cap, got off at Milbrae. What book were you reading? Give me a call. ☎ 7110.

4th Of July Outside Cala
You: fabulous smile getting into your white convertible. me: cap, gray sweatshirt. our eyes glued to each other—I wanted to give you my #, call now? ☎ 7111.

Boy With New Backpack
6/28/97. You stared on BART from Oakland to Powell. I stalked you downtown. You brought backpack. Where's the Castro? What time is it? I felt nervous. Let's untie our tongues. ☎ 7112.

Sat 6/21 16th St. Safeway
Wow! Stomach did a 180 degree when you caught my eye. Surprised I was even able to talk. My halibut was great, did you get your S.S. crabs? Let's meet. ☎ 7162.

Yellow F Market Cable Car 7/8
Tues. 11AM. You got on near Safe Way/Mecca, white T-shirt, tan slacks, black boots, dark eyes/hair, silver ring. Me: green cap, white T-shirt, plaid shorts, boots, blue-gray eyes. I liked your puppy-dog eyes. ☎ 7163.

Joey Gay Pride Day
You: small, dark, hairy, gorgeous. Me: beard, baseball cap, blue shirt. We chatted briefly. Call if you can play.—David. ☎ 7165.

Mike
We met GGP, Tue. 6/10 about 3:30. You, teacher, short on time, other half. Need your e-mail. Get together? Can't call? ☎ 7202.

Greg From San Diego
We met on Sun 7/13 at the Lone Star. We closed the bar, I went out, you stayed in. Would like to see you again, Bryan. ☎ 7207.

Bus Stop @ McAllister/Larkin
Thurs. 7/10, 9 PM. You: waiting @ bus stop. I was walking my dog. I waved goodbye and wished I would have let you pet my dog. Let's introduce ourselves correctly. ☎ 7203.

Mission Thrift Shops Sat. 7/12
You: cute Asian, bought swim fins at Thrift town. Said hi, smiled at community Thrift. Me: white, goatee, black hair. I like your style. Wanna shop together? ☎ 7204.

Anthony B. @ Pleasuredome
Gay Pride night. You're from Humboldt, I'm still in Guerneville. Sorry couldn't finish conversation. Still want to keep in touch. Call me: Tom. ☎ 7205.

Chorus Concert Sat. 7/12
Intermission downstairs. You: dark hair/complexion, glasses, sports jacket, in line for RR. Me: balding/buzz-cut, muscular, multi-color shirt, exiting RR. Couldn't stop glancing at each other. Please call. ☎ 7201.

Pride Photographer
We were kissing, you snapped our picture and said "classic." You moved on before we could ask how to reach you. We'd love a photo. Please call. Thanks. ☎ 7206.

Andy Yuba River Sunday July 13
You lent me your snorkel and mask. I would like to see you again. John. ☎ 7208.

Specialties Sandwich Shop Boy
On Kearny. Saw you on Caltrain with friend. I sat across from you, upper level. Me: shy lonely older man. Would like to know you. Let's meet, if you like older guys. Please respond. ☎ 7209.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Washboard Abs Seeks Similar
BI WM, 35, 5'8", seeks guy who is Af-Am or any race, likes movies, has slim hard hairless body, and thinks anal is overrated and kissing is underrated. SF or E. Bay. ☎ 7016.

Oh! Daddy, Oh! Daddy Bear
Hi, I am butch, I am a bear, looking for a hot Daddy bear with lots of hair, top only. San Mateo to San Jose. Cool if you are 40 to 50 let's do it. ☎ 7007.

One Name Cocksucker!
Yep, I'm good enough to go by just one name: Alan. Period. Like Madonna. Except cocksucking is man's work. Ask your girl friend or wife to relax while I demonstrate. ☎ 7008.

GLM Seeking GWM/GLM
I'm 33 yo, 5'4", 110#, in shape Latino looking for GWM specially Italian men, 35-45 yo. I'm interested in dating and possible LTR. ☎ 7009.

Clean Cut Leather Biker Type
Me: 40 years old, 6'2", br/bl, 200#, non-smoker, would like a date for Starship Troopers. Me: 18-45, non-smoker, motorcycle jacket. ☎ 7010.

Looking For A Friend
GBM, 36, seeks GWM, 30-36, for friendship or a relationship. Must have his act together. NS/ND. I'm not just looking for sex. ☎ 7011.

Long Term Relationship Wntd HIV-
GWM, 5'6", 155#, clean shaven, hoping to find a guy who wants to be loved not used. Br/blr me/you, 25-35, clean shaven and bottom. ☎ 7012.

Nice-Looking HIV- GLM
29/6'2"/165 ISO nice-looking, thoughtful, humorous, adventurous, fit, smooth, relationship-oriented HIV-, A/L/W, under 32 to enjoy life with. I enjoy sports, dancing, movies, speaking different languages. Nihongo de doozo. ☎ 7013.

Weekday/Evenings Free?
I am tall, blonde hair, blue eyes, swimmers body. & in my 40's. I would like to meet a "friend" who is slim, young and ethnic for dates. One-nighters need not apply. Discretion assured! ☎ 7014.

European WM, Mid 30's
Tall, slim, masculine, HIV-, professional, enjoy outdoors, books, movies, travel, romance. Seeking sincere, honest man, late 20's to early 40's, for friendship and more. ☎ 7049.

Attractive Latino
Good-looking Latino 32, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, looking for GWM for friendship or maybe more. I'm HIV-, professional, enjoy quality of life. Call me. ☎ 7050.

White Seeks Afro-American
GWM 46, HIV+, 6', 175#, average looks, mostly bottom seeks compatible, affectionate Afro-American. I like travel, museums, music, computer, friends, and other things. ☎ 7051.

Click Here For A Cute Lad...
My search engine seeks cute, cool guys, my age (35) or younger. I'm not a geek, but I play one on the web! I use a wheelchair—but everything works! I've got strength, vulnerability & charm, so let's connect! ☎ 7113.

Skq Outdoor Adventure-S/E Bay
GWM, 39, fit, HIV/healthy, masculine, sks M 25-45. Into hiking, cycling, rafting, day trips, old sci-fi. Am unpretentious, spontaneous, fun. Asian or Latino A+. ☎ 7114.

Expert Cocksucker
Senior GWM, 5'7", 130#, begs to worship masc, verbal topman, over 40, wgt proportion. Cauc or Asian. ☎ 7115.

Coming Out Party!
LM, 32, prof., 5'8", 147#, inexperienced, x-dresser; ISO: taller gentleman for dating/etc. Pls be HIV-, good conversationalist a=+. ☎ 7116.

Intimate Non Gym Toned GWM
East Bay GWM, 36, 5'11", 190#, HIV- seeks GBM who realizes there is a world outside of the gym. Let's explore all else that life has to offer. ☎ 7117.

Sex Slave/Butler Available!
GW/slave, 44, 5'10", 250# (biker's build). Need to serve you as your sex slave/butler. Full-time or? You call it! ☎ 7118.

Seeking Quality GBM
GWM, 44, 6', 155#, HIV-, beard, NS, professional, affectionate, versatile (or a/an/a/dides) seeks similar GBM, HIV-, 35-50, for intimate fun, possible LTR. Facial hair a+. ☎ 7119.

Hot, J/O Or LTR-Can't Decide!
SBM, 34, built, hung, bearded, HIV-, new to SFO, ISO beefy guy, 33-40, HIV-, who's beefy but thick meat for oral/visual appreciation and...? Humor, smoker a plus. ☎ 7120.

Wanted: WASPY Town & Country
Guy for 29, GWPM, bl/bl, 5'9", 160#, 42ch/30ch, boyishly handsome, traveled, educated, masculine, diverse art looking, sport. Be-GWM, 35-45, high-end, driven professional, in-shape, handsome, masculine, goal oriented, dating/LTR. ☎ 7121.

Geek Stud For Studly Geek
Healthy, hunky, handsome, 41yo. Faux Latinate PWA, 5'10", 190 solid lbs. likes classical music, architecture, poetry and backpacking. Looking for Steve Guttenberg's queer brother (or better). ☎ 7122.

Covered In Leather Or Uniforms
Looking for a special person, 25-35, HIV-, good-looking. I like wearing leather or uniforms when having sex. I'm financially secure and looking for you. ☎ 7123.

Ultimately Seek LTR. Important
29yo, healthy, maturely, responsibly, activity, energy, kink, open mind. Unimportant things: age, looks, anti-body status, wealth, fame, dick size. I'm 36, white, bl/bl, trim, pos, healthy, non-vanilla. Prefer chubs. ☎ 7124.

Top Daddy
Needed to train this pussy boy to be your sex slave. Dad needs to be in shape. Boy stats: 37, GWM, 5'7", 140#, shaved head, goatee, mustache, tattooed. ☎ 7125.

GWM ISO Possibility
39, 190#, 5'9", brn, grn, mustache/beard, intelligent, stable. Seeking similar gentle male, capable of commitment, 30-45 years, affectionate, furry. ND/NS, moderate alcohol okay. Want relationship, not sex-buddy. ☎ 7126.

Leathersex and Intimacy
Spiritual Master likes romance, affection, and a fuck hole size. handsome 41, HIV-, 5'10", 175#, br/bl, mustache seeks intelligent, ht/wt proportionate single slave. Facial hair A+. Role-play, humiliation, service. ☎ 7127.

Brasileiro
If you are into Brazilian music, romance, tender love, Latin flavor, you're the guy for me. Me: Latino in love with your country, your music and your men. ☎ 7128.

Attractive, masculine, ISO LTR
6'1", goatee, hairy, stocky, 230#, bear-type, Italian, HIV-, 42yo, romantic, NS/ND, seeks monogamous only, hairy +, Latin +. ☎ 7129.

Buffed GBM 4 GWM Hunk
Muscular, masculine, attractive and intelligent, professional, intensely spirited GB "MAN" seeks sexy, high-quality, mainstream, socially confident, mature, witty, muscular GW "MAN" for fun, laughs, friendship...maybe more! ☎ 7130.

Sonoma County Blue Collar Guy
Seeks other hot masculine types! I'm 39, 6', 170#, HIV+, versatile bottom with crewcut, goatee & glasses. I enjoy life, good food, comedy & ears. Facial hair, good kisser & honesty are pluses. ☎ 7210.

Looking For Mr. Right
Attractive, 37 yo, Filipino, 5'10", 160#, HIV-, not into games, ISO GWM or Latin, 35-45, for a sincere and honest relationship. ☎ 7213.

Nice Guy Seeks Same
Basic attractive HIV+ top, 5'8", 135#, 45, brn/hazel, mustache, looking for stocky, mostly oral, HIV+ bottom, 35-45. ☎ 7214.

GWM Seeking GBM
Attr. GWM, 44, 5'10", 185#, S/P hr, clean-shaven, masc, HIV-, seeking attr. GBM, 30-50, HIV-, in-shape or stocky for LTR. Smooth a plus. ☎ 7215.

Seeking A Muscular Black Male
Muscular GWM, 39, honest, sensitive seeks a well defined, muscular GBM for hot times. Interests: dining out, body building, communication. Pls be serious, no phones. ☎ 7216.

Senior Gentleman
Pleasant, healthy & trim would enjoy spending some quality time with a similar. Gentleman Penin. preferred. ☎ 7217.

Wanted-Hot Men For Dating Etc.
You be 22-35, masculine, good-looking (w/o attitude), creative; height/weight proportionate; Pisces, Scorpio and Cancers a plus; I'm 5'11", 175#, brn hair & eyes. ☎ 7218.

Ultra-Handsome Fat Bear...
Sks same: masc GWM, 30, 6'2", good shape/active at 320#, trim 'stache & beard, world traveler, multi-lingual, educated prof. You're similar: intell, mono, hndsm, 25-35, unwittingly pudgy to forthrightly fat. Let's get together & NOT be self-conscious. ☎ 7219.

Open Mind/Open Heart
Seeking loving humanist ready to share life and serious love. You: intelligent, loves French wine, intimate dinners out or in, passion for travel. Be 35-50, NS, HIV-, 5'8" or more. ☎ 7220.

Smooth Blond Into Hairy Men
42 yrs, muscular, good-looking, HIV-, smooth, tanned, more bottom than top, seeks a defined, romantic man for dating. Please be sincere. I smoke. ☎ 7221.

ISO 40's Versatile Bareback Dad
Affectionate, clean, tall, handsome, muscular, hairy, hung for tight fit, regular to moderate leather kink, by handsome, 5'7", slim, muscular, smooth, hung, GWM, successful, clean-cut, for proud monogamous, loving coexistence. ☎ 7222.

Chubby-Muscular Seeks Partner
Me: 30, masculine, blond, blue, 5'10", 225#, HIV-, safe, top or bottom for: bondage, humiliation, moderate S/M and fantasy. You: turned on by a kinky, attractive, heavy guy. ☎ 7223.

Asian/Latin Boyfriend Wanted
WM, 44, 5'9", 155#, HIV+, loves fun, outdoors, dogs, music, cooking, movies, TV, reading, home, fireplace, hiking, bicycling, star gazing, staying healthy, laughing, having sex, sleeping, seeks happy friend, companion, partner. ☎ 7224.

Me Tarzan U Boy Want A Banana
Tarzan, 32, muscular, HIV-, with fully appointed playroom Boy must be cute/handsome, honest, obedient, very tall, 18-39, HIV-, toned, clean-shaven, for fun and fantasy. Good boy gets the Banana. ☎ 7225.

GAM Seeks GW Companion
HIV-, 5'8", 140#, gd/kl, well-built body, loves laughing, movies, festivals & spending quality time with quality person. Seeking nice, well-built, humorous, HIV-, easy-going, GWM, 30-40, for companionship & possible LTR. ☎ 7226.

Asian Seeking Summer '97
Looking for young Asians with positive attitude. Athletic, gym toned, love sports, music, movies, and community service. ☎ 7227.

Scene Stealer
Want good times, caring, romance, adventure, soul-buddy? SGWM original good-looking, handsome, in-shape, healthy, 5'11", tall, 180#. Seeks similar SGWM under 39, good-looking with great smile, big heart. Dating for LTR. ☎ 7211.

HIV+ Quality Lover & Friend
Attractive, healthy, GWM, in 40's, ISO lover/friend. Me: easy going, responsible, romantic, is able to share emotional/physical intimacy, versatile, 5'10", 157#, br/gr, clean shaven. You: similar, 35-50. ☎ 7212.

Ebony Seeks Ivory
GBM, 40, 5'10", 190#, athletic, out going, humorous, enjoys cultural and sporting events, photography, cooking, seeks outdoor adventure/indoor intimacy. ☎ 7228.

The Mirror Has 2 Faces
Attractive GWM, 29, 6'2", 187#, brown hair, green eyes, and runner's build. Looking for romance with a man having similar characteristics. Humorous, attitude free and adventurous. ☎ 7229.

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185#, into fitness, travel, romance, and quiet times seeks another HIV-, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 7230.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Are You Tired After Work Let's
Have sex. Nice legs, tight ass, Redwood city area. hot Latino, 27 years. Please call me. ☎ 7142.

Top Foreigners
I'm 27 yo, black man with a warm mouth and butt. I'll serve young men with big toots. Must be in good shape. European a plus. ☎ 7015.

Show Off And Pose
Your built body and/or extremely hairy body while this attractive WM blows you. Be masculine, uninhibited. I am 39, good body, great mood. Your place. Pose and let's get nasty. ☎ 7017.

White Guy Wants Black Guy
For mutual oral fun. I'm a 6'1", 185#, in shape, masculine, and hung 47 yo man of Scandinavian descent seeking GBM, 20-50 yo, in shape, orally inclined. ☎ 7019.

Model Porn Star Or Cute Guy
Needed by successful handsome top for prolonged bondage and S&M sessions. UB good-looking, young, hung and a serious bottom or switch. Safe discreet and well paid for your time. ☎ 7020.

Blindfolded—I'm Ready
39, bnd/blu, 5'11", 150#, HIV+, Beginner ISO top or tops for experiences in light BD, SM, CBT, WS, leather and toys. Verbal, a plus. ☎ 7021.

Wkday Matinee J0 Discreet Fun
Average guy, late 40's, seeking buddy for cock fondling & ball play, cuddling, giving each others oral sensations of pleasure. Building to explosion of cum. Xtra pleasure for natural UC cocks. ☎ 7022.

More Than A Huffy Mouthful?
Not your dick, your load! If you shoot a lot, I wanna swallow it all. Thirst persisting, your bladder serves same faucet. Two hot fluids. Both fresh/refreshing stuff. Cheers! ☎ 7023.

For A Swell Time
8" + uncult top and hungry stud bottom. Both 30's, good-looking and fit, seek one or more similar studs for sweaty sessions. ☎ 7024.

8 Thick Inches Wants Service
Hairy chested, hung, in-shape top wants his pole down your throat or hole. If your a sincere hot bottom who is ready to serve, give a call. ☎ 7025.

Do You Need It Bad?
Two hot, handsome, in shape guys. One top, one bottom, well hung, very hungry, want to make it good. UB: similar, under 40, and want it now. ☎ 7026.

I Want To Ride You Hard!
8 inches of hard nut on a handsome, in shape, hairy chest, goateed stud. You are a serious bottom to 45 who wants to be filled. ☎ 7027.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt
Versatile, 5'11", well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 7028.

Hung Huge?
GWM, 28, 5'10", 160#, seeks horse hung guys with 10" + or more and XXX thick for daytime worship. Call me and get the kind of attention a big dick deserves. If your seriously hung. ☎ 7029.

Super Hung Black Top Man, 44
Needs a husky, mature, Hispanic bottom man. Others welcome if husky, mature, sincere, available, easy to reach. Mustache A+. Open wide. ☎ 7030.

Hot Hungry Ass-Eager To Please
Masc men. Mature, muscular bottom in Oakland seeks hung tops who love tits & ass & enjoy fucking smaller guys. GWM, 5'3", 130#, shaved head, healthy, HIV+, need fuck buddies. ☎ 7031.

Sexy, Bulging Biceps
Hot top fuck, 37, 6'1", 185#, in shape gym hard body wants thin to muscular guys, 20-45, with very defined arms who likes to service dick, flex, and get ass fucked. ☎ 7032.

Come For Me?
GWM, 40yrs, 5'8", 150 in shape #. Mustache, mod hairy, br/br, sexy smiling, Harley driving masculine man. ISO GWM masculine fury man w/facial hair for daytime fun. Lt brn to blond & leather A+. Let me start the day on my knees. ☎ 7033.

Son Or/And Slave Wanted
By attr mature GWM, 73, 5'8", 165. You are 18-40, gd/king, submissive, gay or bi-curious with a need to serve a strict but loving, caring Daddy-Master. ☎ 7052.

Bi Loves To Play
Bi WM 56, 170#, 6" thick, loves to learn seeks well endowed to service, play, avail days, evs. Close in Penn. location, My place. ☎ 7053.

Hot Group Action
Hot looking, 28 year old, white male, 6', 155#, gym-toned body, top seeks hot guys, 25-35, into safe 3-way or group action. ☎ 7054.

Fuck My Butt...
Horny Italian, 44, 6', 190#, w/mst & goatee seeking all studs who wanna unload in a hot beefy butt. Late night sex in Castro, 12-5AM, Fri-Mon. ☎ 7055.

Blond Stud In Sonoma County
Fun, exciting, easy going guy near Santa Rosa is looking for if you are under 21, smooth and not fat. Call Tim today. ☎ 7056.

Grt-lookin' Smart Nice Available
Youthful 36yo, masc., regular guy prof., 5'11", 155#, br/br, athletically ver-safe, hry chested ISO smoother, shorter (7), HIV-, in-shape, age, NS co-adventurer. Plus: 30's, unaddicted, playful, clean, regular, fit, hung? ☎ 7057.

Hooterville Trolley
This way, please, for the fabled Oral Tunnel, presently under consideration for Eighth Wonder status... Your travel guide today: GWM, bottomless throat, 6/17/40's. Big grin, big heart, decent-sized brain. ☎ 7131.

Summer Planting
Hot bim has 2 fertile fields for large plows. I'm 36, 6'2", 195#, b/b/bu, tanned, deep throat & tight buns. UR: hot, horny, passionate, hung, in shape, under 40, in SF. ☎ 7132.

Midnight To SAM Sex
Hot Italian stud, 44, 6', 190#, ms/goatee, looking for hot beefy studs to fuck & rim & suck. Castro location. Dark rooms & hot holes now available! ☎ 7133.

Muscle Bottom Wanted
Masculine muscle boy needed with hot mouth and bubble butt. Smooth skin blacks & Asians OK. ☎ 7134.

Silk And Nylons
Horny GBM Daddy ISO GWM bottom in panties, panty-hose etc. UB: 50 yr+, bottom in bed & equal partner out. Me: 40's & hung. We: enjoy role-playing. ☎ 7135.

This Hole's For You
If you are a serious fucker, h/t/wt prop 7 you want a hot, wet & "natural" hole to fuck call now. Sexy GBM, lean, trim, masc & ready. ☎ 7136.

Like To Suck A Nice Cock
GWM, 180, 6', NS/ND, like suck 6" dick & get fucked. Age/race no factor, watch movies. ☎ 7137.

Bottom Dad
GWM, 42, 5'6", 135#, HIV-, slim & smooth, likes to get fucked. have own place & car and am available evs and weekends. N/A/D/S. ☎ 7138.

Two For Three Special!!
One big, hard rod, one tight, bubble butt, and one deep throat available from 2 hot blondes if you've got two or three of the same. UB under 40, nice shape and ready to work it. Call now! ☎ 7139.

Live Outside San Francisco
I want to meet men who live outside the city to visit. I'm seeking new adventures, new environment, new friends. I'm muscular, masculine, 44, white. You be muscular, masculine, under 50, white. ☎ 7140.

Wanted: Sex And Romance
Good-looking HIV+, GWM, 40, 6', 190#, with short brown hair and mustache, seeks other good-looking positives for fun and more. Looking for men 20-35. All nationalities welcome. NS. ☎ 7141.

Luv To Give Head!
GWM, 5'10", 160#, br/br, c/n shaven, fun, friendly. Luv to play with and suck balls and dick. You: masc, trim, G/W/L/A. Reg. service possible. ☎ 7143.

Adult Arcade, Gay Theaters Bar?
Handsome 40 old submissive seeks adventures in semi-public places with dominate males. Stripped naked while servicing you and others of your choice. Humiliation, Bondage, rape and more. ☎ 7144.

Mature GWM Wanted
By GWM, HIV-, small in size but makes up for it in other ways. I'm energetic, submissive bottom, adventurous. I like all nationalities, want an experienced well endowed man to turn me on. ☎ 7153.

Hairy Butts Drive Me Nuts!
Slender masc. artist w/trim beard (Brad Pitt type) seeks trim bear N/S. For safe play, frottage, JO, and... ☎ 7145.

Big Dick Bttm Boys Turn Me On
You need deep extended fucking and multiple orgasms from a great top. UB: 25-40, GWM/GLM, good shape, with hot hole. Me: GWM, 40yo, 5'6", 145#, good shape, dominant. ☎ 7146.

Handsome Young Men Wanted
If you are handsome, muscular, straight acting, 21-27, want the best blow job by handsome young GM, please call. Please be white or Latino. ☎ 7147.

Hooded Beauties
Love U/C cocks! love to play w/your foreskin. Let me play with your skin and put a smile on your face. Clean cut, safe, discreet, HIV- whine cut cock & big shaved balls. ☎ 7148.

Over The Knee Spanking
With hand, belt, paddle, and/or switch. Limits respected, novices welcome. Me: attrac, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250#, football player's build. You: attrac, GWM or Asian, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate body hair, nice buns. ☎ 7149.

Slow To Get Hard After Surgery
GWM, 46, 210#, 5'11", b/br, ISO patient HIV- GWM for afternoon sex, any age, NS/ND, good kisser A+. ☎ 7150.

Just Shut-Up And Ride!
WM, 30, 5'10", 200 lb., blonde hair, blue eyes, muscle stud (48" ch, 31" w, 18" arms) wants good-looking masculine men to pump me full of squirt—anytime. ☎ 7151.

Hot Man
Seeks sizzling boy, WM, 5'11", 165#, wants fun with Asian/Latino, 25-35, slim, must speak fluent English. Dinners, movies, dancing, travel, like cats, 60-70's music. NS/ND, light drinker OK. ☎ 7152.

Lking 4 Men Of All Colors 4 Sex
GWM, 44 years young (looks 30's), blue/brown, 6', 148#, slum-build, masculine, goatee, top & HIV- seeking men of all colors, 21-50 for play-mates and hot times. ☎ 7164.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt
Versatile, 5'11", well built, hung big, needs Cau men well built w/big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 7231.

Are You A Hot & Hung Bttm Boy?
Athletic, well hung top, GWM has what you want. You: 25-39, masc. GWM/GLM. Me: 35, 5'10", 155#. Driven. ☎ 7232.

Do You Qualify?
Looking for an expert cocksucker. UB tall, short, hairy, bald, young, old, fat, skinny, black, white, brown, rich, poor... But you must give great head and love doing it. Leave #. ☎ 7233.

Curses Of Cocksucking Class:
Limp dicks just the beginning. LT loads the real end. But let's see if a gifted pro can't get you to shoot by the mouthful. ☎ 7234.

Novice Bottom
GWM, HIV+, 30, 5'9", 155#, great body, great smile. Looking for versatile, athletic GWM's, 25-35 to explore and rattle with. ☎ 7235.

Asian Top Seeks GWM Bottom
GAM, 30's, 5'7", 130#, in shape, seeking GWM bottom. You: under 45, chubby, HIV-, NS/ND. Mustache preferred. ☎ 7236.

Sonoma Co.
Bm/blond sensual oral affectionate blue eyes, 180#, mustache, 42 yr disabled guy seeking muscular cowboy for good times, 25-45. Hot. ☎ 7249.

Bi Married Guy
47, beard, 300 +, w/19 yr old buddy, 140#, from LA looking for safe games w/lookers, 18 to ? Serious players only. ☎ 7250.

Gym Bottom Into Average Joe?
WM, 40's, HIV-, average build dominant verbal imaginative seeks very muscular bodybuilder exhibitionist bottom HIV- into taking orders, showing off giving head, taking dildos and more at your place. ☎ 7238.

Bottom ISO Hot Top
Good-looking 5'10", brn, gm, gym toned, masculine 35 yo bottom seeks, good-looking, in-shape, masculine top, 25-42, for play and hot times. S 7239.

HIV+ White Bttm Sks Black Top
Me: 5'6", 140, boyish, 40yr, healthy, attractive, hungry. I smoke, I'm not a gym bunny, but I am a great piece of ass, looking for regular playmates w/no attitude. You: Black top. ☎ 7240.

Mexican Cowboys
Ride me. Soy Pasivo. WM, 48, 155#, 5'11", 170#, safe, sane, neg, healthy and very discreet. My place or? Me gusta Mexicanos. ☎ 7241.

ISO Dominant
Submissive ISO dominant experienced in quietly taking control and directing obedience. I'm negative, 5'6", 155#, attrac, work out, 43. You're similar. (Leather A+). ☎ 7242.

Attn.: Boys
Dad, 50 years, wants well-built W or L boys to 30, any size, for bondage, massage, bathroom procedures, spankings, other control rituals. ☎ 7243.

Long Hair Guys
Turn on! Let's play. Me: 49, GWM, salt & pepper, 5'9", & stache. You: GWM, 35-52, trim. Us: versatile, sexually, sensual, tits, hair & ass. Great combo/s. ☎ 7244.

East Bay Rough-House Wanted
WM, 49, 5'10", 170#, very hairy chest, mustache, HIV-, good shape. Likes wrestling, boxing, toughness, struggling, combat, younger and ethnic a plus. The real thing. ☎ 7245.

Clean-cut Raunch Top
Seeks clean-cut bottom boy for on going and discrete "relationship." Private degradation, bondage, humiliation, and/or ranch. Will train beginner. ☎ 7246.

Italian Top Seeks Blond Bottom
Good-looking muscular & lean Italian wants to fuck horny, in-shape blond boy on a regular basis. I'm passionate and dominant, looking for someone submissive but active. Be masculine, in good shape and available weekday daytime. ☎ 7247.

Seeking Latino Bottom
Attractive Italian seeks young masculine Latino into being fucked on a regular basis. I'm dark featured, ver defined and muscular, passionate & dominant. ☎ 7248.

HIV- Bear Sks Other Bears/Cubs
GWM, 39/6'3"/220#/avid outdoors man/professional, sks long haired, furred/shaggy, sensual & versatile men for nose-to-nose confrontation. ☎ 7237.

Seeking Friends For Fun And?
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Hot 6', 35, 160#, good-looking all-American collegiate-type w/gym toned body. Hung big, versatile. Seeks good-looking guys for fun. Couples a plus. S 7252.

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FETISHES

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Seeks shit fit for very handsome men's turd shoots. I'm 5'9", 140#, young 41, short blond flat top, goate, HIV-, uniforms, leather, jocks, levis, tattoos, experienced. ☎ 7059.

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Need A Hot Dick
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GWM, 32, 6'3", 200#, gym 3-4 x wk. bld/bl, HIV-, seeking men w/nylon, spandex fetish, socks, jocks, speedos and biking shorts. Seek tops, hung A+ sex too! ☎ 7258.

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GWM, 39, 6'3", leather bear top has sling for safe gentle FF play with my large hands or cum to your place SF to S.J. Be serious, experienced. ☎ 7261.

COUPLES

Oral Playmate Wanted
Updown GWM couple, 40's, professionals, HIV-, seeks GWM, 30-58, professional, cut, HIV-, to service and get serviced from my hung partner as I bang his pipes. ☎ 7159.

Bun Hounds Seek Wild Bottom
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GWM 40's, GAM 30's
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Very good looking ISO gentlemen who can service me front and back. Do you think you're worthy? Me: 5'11", 155#. ☎ 7266.

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FILM

Honest piece of work



A hit at last year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, Rachel Reichman's *Work* is a slice of life about two young women yearning to get out of their rural American backwater. Jenny (Cynthia Kaplan) divides her time between looking for a job in a town with no opportunities and smooching with her next-door-neighbor, June (Sonja Sohn). Sounds like a match made in heaven? Not quite. Jenny happens to be married to a man, and June is making plans to go away to college. *Work* superbly captures the feeling of a fleeting romance between two trapped souls. Film plays the Red Vic (1727 Haight Street) Monday and Tuesday, July 28 and 29 (7:15 p.m. & 9:15 p.m.). ▼

Out There

◀ page 30

control the interview with Parkins. Instead, he struggled vainly to coast on his smug grin and offensive little pseudo jokes. (Referring to Patty Duke as a "a little midget" and needlessly knocking Canadians apparently constitute his idea of wit.) When Casablanca dies, he'll definitely qualify for a "Texas funeral" — after the enema, they'll be able to fit him into a shoe box.

(Newsflash: We don't like to trade in cheap gossip, but we've just learned from a fly on the wall at the Hotel Rex, where Mr. C. was staying, that one of the *B.A.R.'s* workin' girls was seen coming and going from the gossipmeister's room before and after the Castro Theatre event. Guess Ted's obliviousness Friday had nothing to do with dolls after all, at least not those of the pharmaceutical variety.)

Sorry Chiffon

Looks like psychedelic chanteuse **Musty Chiffon** is packing up her bags and leaving town before the end of her show's run at Josie's Cabaret. Chiffon, who is based in Provincetown, revealed to us on the phone the other day that her departure has been hastened because of a little disagreement with the proprietor of Josie's. Seems like **Mr. Big Cheese** promised Chiffon an improbable \$2,500 per week to leave her lucrative summertime Provincetown gig and come West. Musty says she hasn't been mak-

ing anything near that whopping sum and that when she asked Big Cheese to stand by his contract, she was scoffed at. Says Chiffon about Cheese: "He has plantation disease — he thinks he owns everything."

Not payback, but a perk

"I'm basically somebody who sees the world as a comedy," says author **Gary Indiana** in a July 7 interview with *Publishers Weekly*. "We live in a world of rampant hypocrisy where people never say what they think, they never say what their real opinion is in public. They never divulge just how much they resent other people, how much they envy, how much they despise."

Indiana offered this execratory picture of humankind as a thumbnail sketch of the personalities populating his new novel, *Resentment*, about a sensational LA murder trial that galvanizes the bankrupt emotional and intellectual lives of contemporary Angelenos. "I wanted to show the kind of poison that would spread all through that society, the way something gets into the ground water and gets disseminated everywhere. The trial seemed like a perfect thing to me as a kind of toxin that everybody's attention would be focused on," Indiana told PW.

It's not a pretty picture he paints in his latest effort, but then this is a man who believes the world is comprised solely of "creeps and assholes" and whose previous works chronicle such bleak goings on as a writer's impossible love for a beautiful young



Gary Indiana

heroin addict (*Horse Crazy*); a male hustler who gets involved in the kidnapping plot of a sinister organ-transplant surgeon (*Rent Boy*); and an actor's discombobulated perceptions of a film project gone awry in South America at the dismal dawn of the AIDS era (*Gone Tomorrow*).

Although a brilliant fabulist, Indiana's work is deeply concerned with reality. In fact, his writing is often most appreciated by arbiters of the literati for its sometimes thinly veiled caricatures of real world celebs. Indeed, when asked by PW if some of *Resentment's* over-the-top characterizations are deliberate parodies of writers **Ingrid Sischy**, **Dominick**

next page ►

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ARTS

Out There

◀ previous page

Dunne, Hilton Als, and Jamaica Kincaid, he replied coolly that "payback isn't a good motive for writing a novel, but it is one of the perks." The impolitic Mr. Indiana will be at a Different Light Bookstore on Monday, July 28 (7:30 p.m.). Call 431-0891 for information.

Au revoir

Finally, rumor has it that famed architect **Peter Eisenman** has been dismissed as project architect for the new Jewish Museum in San Francisco. The project, a rehabilitation and expansion of a Willis Polk-designed building opposite the Yerba Buena Center, will now be turned over to another architect, but nobody knows who. According to Out There's source, Eisenman's design was simply unworkable. There were endless revisions, each one more complicated and impractical than the last. Does this mean plans for that Jumbotron are a no-go? ▼

Cheryl Dunye

◀ page 34

did a great job. She said so much we had to edit it down.

The open-ended quality of the narrative leaves a lot of room for the audience to move around in.

I made a lot of conscious choices in trying to get people to respond. That's why that quote comes up at the end that says, "The Watermelon Woman is a fiction." Audiences have to do some work. I'm giving you something to do. I'm glad you're thinking. Hopefully you might say to a black lesbian — you can have a conversation with her and there's things to have a conversation about. Either things from the film or you're able to open up the personal space.

The personal is the political. That's why I give you so much of myself in the film: because I'm just another thing. I'm just another tired lesbian. I'm not trying to be a star. I'm trying to be a visible part of the texture. ▼

Watermelon

◀ page 35

down Richard's black lover and partner (poet Cheryl Clarke), who lays it on the line: black women's stories are still untold, literally white-washed out of history.

On the surface a lighthearted This Girl's Life tale, the film's sophistication is revealed in its layering of parody and critique, its subtle underscoring of racial politics and historical invisibility. Cheryl seems to be an easygoing, friendly young woman who wants to make films and get on with the business of living. But nothing is simple when you cross identities and cultures. Though at first she seems not overly concerned with her dual and sometimes conflicting allegiances, those around her are. Tamara rides her for being attracted to wannabe black white girls, and her fascination with the fleeting Hollywood persona of the Watermelon Woman is challenged by Fae's partner, who tells her the

The film's ambiguous inclusion of this unwitting self-parody by Paglia begs the question: Is Dunye supporting or lambasting with cool irony the real-life intellectual claptrap that poses for cultural theory?

real story is in Fae's life as singer and presence in Philly's black gay underground. Cheryl's relationship with Diana is one casualty of her self-questioning and repositioning: quite abruptly Diana's literally out of the picture.

Dunye's light touch keeps the film safely out of the realm of didacticism, even as it slips in bits of valuable information on race films, politics, and history. Though the slapdash tangential structure sometimes feels a bit indulgent, *The Watermelon Woman* succeeds as a quirky tale

of coming to terms with a raised consciousness — for both protagonist and viewer. Will mainstream audiences pick up on its critical undercurrent, in-jokes, camp sensibility, its parody of forms? Maybe, but even if the subtle layers get lost in the crossover, the central message — "sometimes you have to make your own history" — won't. ▼

The Watermelon Woman opens Friday, July 25 at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St.

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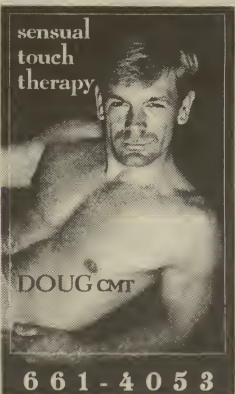
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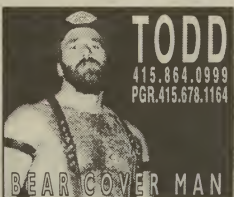
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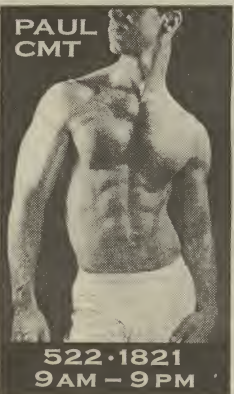
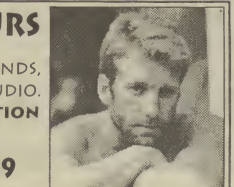
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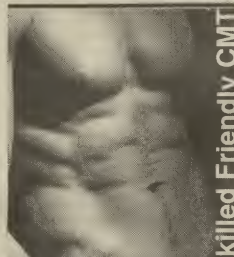
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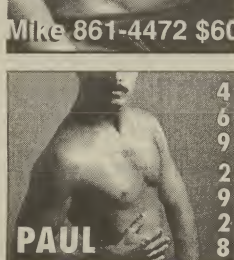
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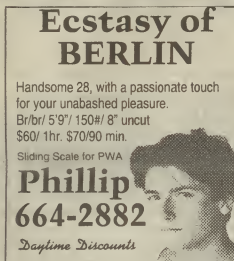
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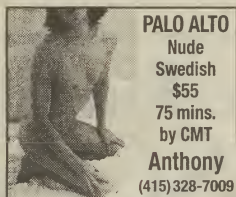
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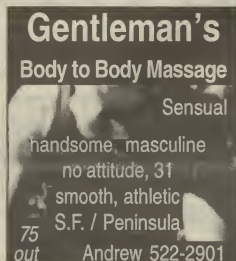
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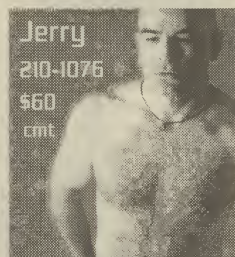
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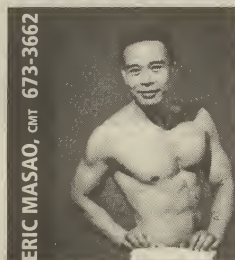
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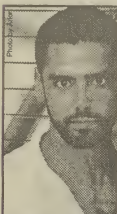
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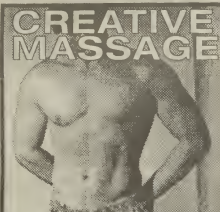
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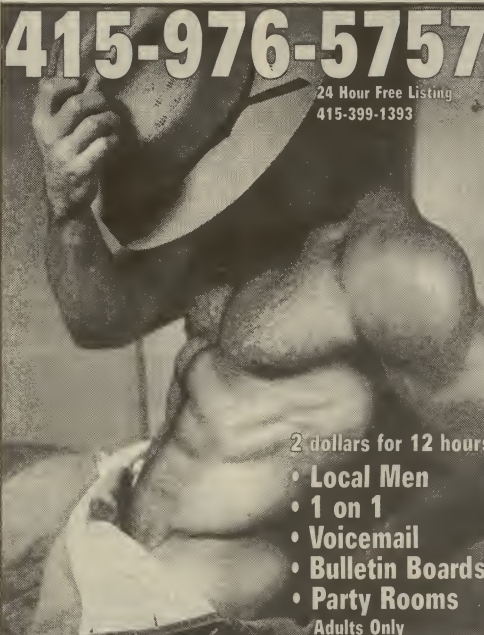
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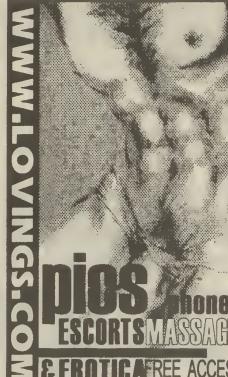
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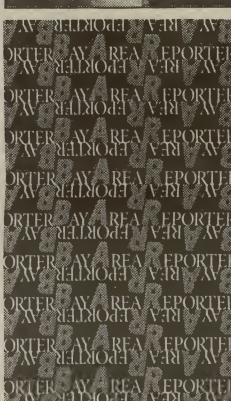
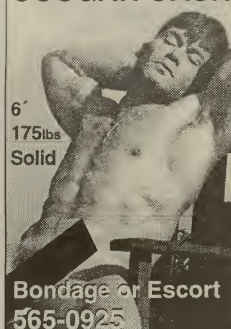
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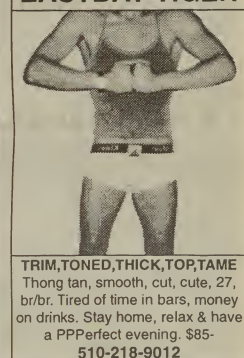
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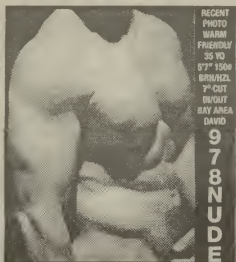
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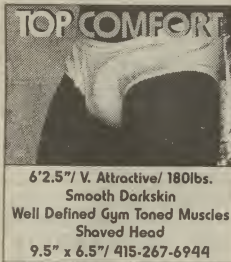
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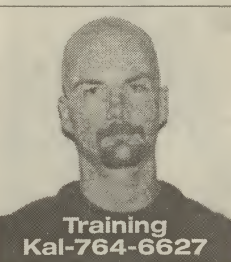
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